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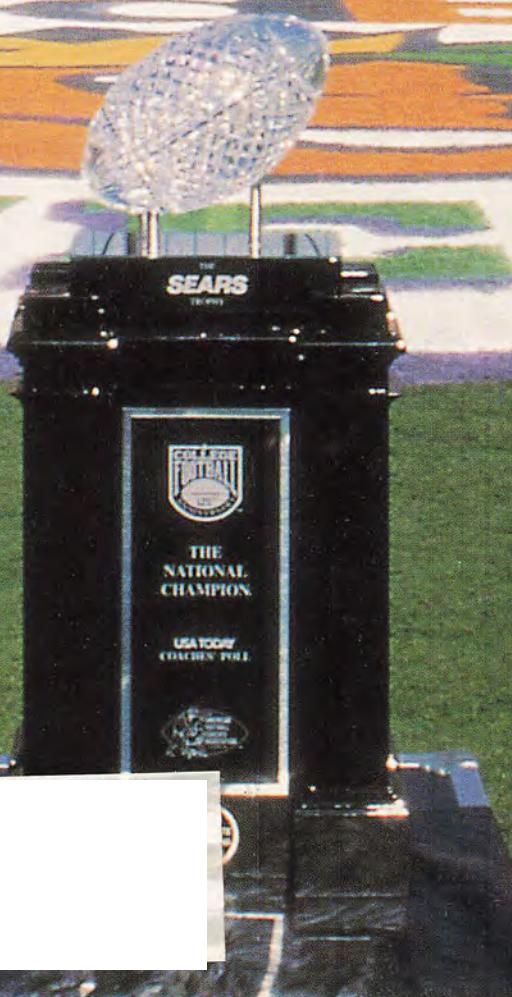
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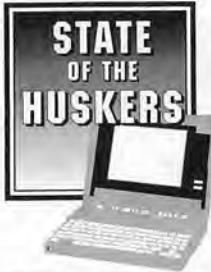
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Accomplishments Never Tarnish

The national title trophies are nice, but it was the process, preparation and playing that made Osborne happy

By MIKE BABCOCK

Finally, with coaching victory No. 219, Tom Osborne earned his first national championship.

In his 22nd season as head coach, less than two months from his 58th birthday, the burden was lifted.

The burden wasn't his, however. Earning a national championship never had been Osborne's concern.

"The trophies don't last," Osborne said the morning after his Nebraska football team completed a 13-0 season by defeating Miami 24-17 in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night.

"They (trophies) fade pretty fast. We've got a lot in Lincoln that nobody hardly ever looks at anymore, gathering dust," he said.

Though it wouldn't be made official until a day later, when the vote totals in the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN polls were announced, there was no doubt the Cornhuskers would be national champions.

Osborne qualified his remarks because of any uncertainty there might be. But everyone else agreed: Nebraska had been No. 1 going into the Orange Bowl, and it would remain No. 1.

As he had been asked repeatedly in the days leading up to the Orange Bowl, Osborne was asked again during the post-game news conference at the Airport Marriott press headquarters what a national championship meant.

He was pleased, especially for his players, he said. But "Geez, I get tired of that: 'What will it mean to you to win a national championship? Will you be a whole person then?'

"I felt like a whole person all the time. We've got to take a new angle there," said Osborne.

The perceived burden was compounded by seven consecutive bowl losses and the fact that Nebraska had won only one of eight Orange Bowl games under Osborne. Twice he had brought unbeaten and untied teams to Miami and come up short of perfection and the national title it would have meant.

An unsuccessful two-point conversion in the final seconds of the 1984 Orange Bowl left the Cornhuskers 31-30 losers to Miami. And a missed 45-yard field goal as time ran out in the 1994 Orange Bowl preserved an 18-16 Florida State victory.

Osborne's decision to attempt a two-point conversion in the 1984 game — going for the victory rather than settling for a tie with an almost-

"It's spoken," McBride said, emphatically, by way of clarification. "Tom doesn't want us to, but we do."

Afterward, McBride said: "This means just about everything. If you work for Tom, you have to understand what he's done for this program, for college football and for the community.

"This win is not just for football but something for the state, the



certain extra-point kick — was a defining moment in his career. But the national respect he had earned seemed to have eroded.

Even though his record was remarkable, Osborne had been criticized for not winning "The Big One."

His teams had come painfully close. But he had never gotten a national championship, the artificial standard by which coaching success now seems to be measured.

During the week before the Orange Bowl game, Charlie McBride, Nebraska's veteran defensive coordinator, was asked if there were an unspoken determination on the part of the assistant coaches and players to win a national title for Osborne.

Coaching victory No. 219 should finally be the one to hush critics who have accused Tom Osborne of not being able to win the "big one."

university and the kids."

Osborne smiled during his news conference on the day after the Orange Bowl. But he was reserved, as usual.

"He's low-key," said Nancy Osborne, his wife. "Tom, actually, is very emotional. But he's not going to be showy with his emotions."

Junior quarterback Tommie Frazier, who started the Orange Bowl game, was replaced by Brook Berringer at the start of the second quarter and returned in the fourth, described Osborne as "the type of coach who really doesn't show his

"They (trophies) fade pretty fast. We've got a lot in Lincoln that nobody hardly ever looks at anymore, gathering dust."

— Tom Osborne

emotions much.

"But I'm sure that once he has a chance to think about it, he'll shed a couple of tears and get pretty excited about it," Frazier said.

The Cornhuskers were welcomed back to Lincoln at a packed Devaney Sports Center arena, where a national championship celebration was held.

Fans began lining up to get in early in the morning for what wouldn't happen until the middle of the afternoon. The Sports Center's doors had to be closed because it couldn't accommodate more than 14,000.

During the celebration, senior co-captain Rob Zatechka reiterated what Osborne had claimed throughout the stay in Miami. "Coach Osborne believes in the pursuit of the national title, not just winning it. That's why he deserves it so much," said Zatechka.

The reward is in the process, the preparation and in playing to one's potential, Osborne said.

That described his 1994 team perfectly. Despite the adversity they encountered, the Cornhuskers achieved their goal, finally repeating a feat last accomplished at Nebraska in 1970 and 1971 under Osborne's predecessor, Bob Devaney.

The expectations were high, Nancy Osborne said. "People were saying: 'This is the year.' It was beginning to scare me a little."

She couldn't help but wonder: "What if this isn't the year."

As it turned out, she needn't have worried. This was the year for Osborne and Nebraska. It was special, something to be enjoyed forever. Or, at least, until next season.

"The people in Nebraska are going to want him to do it all over again," Nancy Osborne said.

One is nice. Two is better. Such is Osborne's burden. ■

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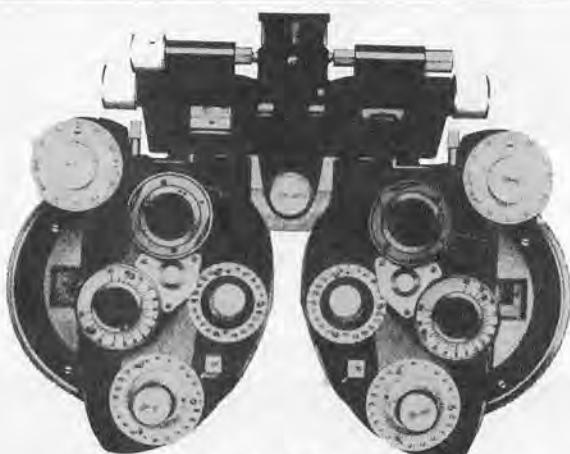
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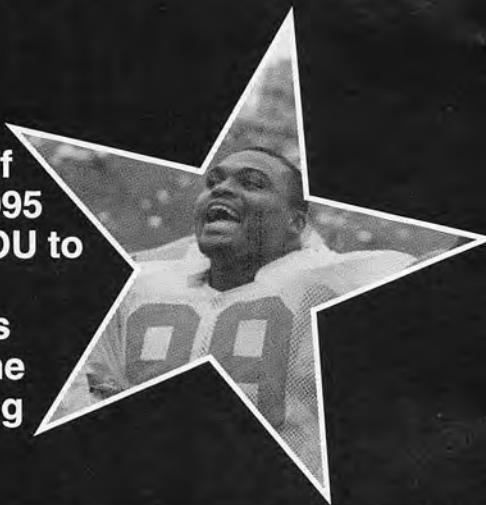
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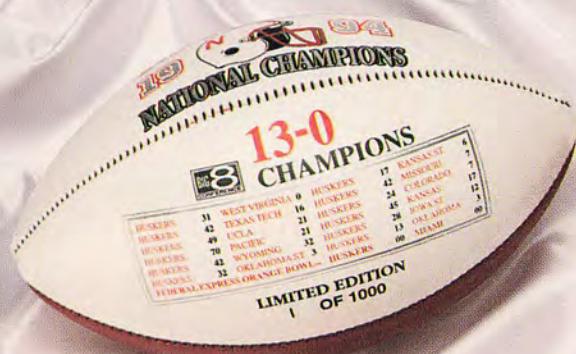
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Hero's Welcome

By Steve Sipple

It had been 23 years since the last NCAA football title, so what was another 3 1/2 hours of waiting for Nebraska's new heroes?

One day after the Cornhuskers' Orange Bowl win virtually locked up the mythical national title, more than 14,000 fans poured in to the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln to welcome home Coach Tom Osborne, his assistant coaches and the players.

People came from all over Nebraska. Some came from other states. Most were relying on adrenaline after a late night of celebrating Nebraska's 24-17 win over Miami on Jan. 1. Many people stayed up all night, and about 50 endured temperatures hovering near zero to remain outside the Sports Center in anticipation of the Jan. 2 celebration.

By noon — the hour designated for the Sports Center's doors to swing open — at least 15,000 fans had gathered outside. Many had begun to arrive before 7 a.m. They entertained themselves during the long, cold wait with chants of "We're No. 1" and "Let us in."

It was a walk of champions for Tom Osborne and the Huskers as they arrived at the Bob Devaney Center for a memorable rally following the trip back from Miami.

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When the doors opened, every seat except the bleachers on the floor — which were reserved for the Cornhusker Marching Band, media representatives and the families of the coaches and players, among others — was filled in less than 10 minutes. One man sustained a bruise on his head from a door during the

A four-hour wait was soon forgotten by a crowd of 15,000 as the team arrived with Orange Bowl trophy in hand and took turns addressing the excited throng of fans.

rush.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 fans were turned away. Many of them remained outside, kicking at the doors or peaking inside in an effort to spot a friend with connections or a kindly usher. One official said people were trying to bribe their way inside, with one person offering \$100.

Once inside, the fans had to wait a little more than 3 1/2 hours for the arrival of Osborne and the rest of the team, whose departure from Miami

had been delayed.

At 3:36 p.m., the fans inside the arena began chanting, "We want Tom." Not long after that, the house lights dimmed and the Sears National Championship trophy was brought to a stage in the center of what is usually the Nebraska basketball team's home floor. The haunting music of "Sirius" — the first-year Husker theme song — filled the emotion-charged building.

Osborne, ever the gentleman, smiled and waved to the roaring crowd as he led a group of about 25 players toward the stage. Dignitaries such as Gov. Ben Nelson, University of Nebraska President Dennis Smith, UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier and Lieutenant Gov. Kim Robak were on hand for what was regarded as the largest postgame rally in Nebraska sports history.

Osborne thanked the fans for waiting so long for the players to arrive.

"I know you've been here for a long time, and I know it took a lot of patience on your part —22 years, I guess," Osborne said.

Osborne, in his 22nd season as head coach, had finally won "The Big One." Though he had already achieved the status of a coaching legend, many of his doubters and critics had unfairly harped upon his inability to bring home the crown. Now those critics are silenced.

At least until next season, when people will begin talking about

See CELEBRATE page 74



LETTERS

KUDOS TO THE COACH

Congratulations to Tom Osborne and the National Champion Huskers.

Our coach handled himself with class before he won the title, and he did the same after he won it.

Too many times, television creates the stars of college sports out of the coaches. But Osborne makes sure he puts his players and even the Nebraska fans first.

I was at the Orange Bowl the night we won it all, and to see the players carrying our coach off the field was the highlight of the night.

Thanks, Coach, for all you've done to make the NU program the best in the country.

I can't wait for next year. Let's do it again.

Bill Livingston
Kansas City, Missouri

IN YOUR FACE

To all the Miami players and fans who were talking trash about the Huskers, there's only one thing you can say:

Nebraska 24, Miami 17.

Most of the Nebraska players let their play on the field do the talking, while Miami players used ESPN cameras to try and intimidate us. It didn't work.

The game was great, but I will be glad to see the future Big 12 champs (Nebraska) playing in some other stadium than the Orange Bowl.

It's a dive. But what else can you expect from the home of the Hurricanes?

My question to *Huskers Illustrated* is why NBC had Chris Collinsworth and Tom Hammond calling the game instead of a better NBC duo like Dick Enberg and Bob Trumpy? Or even the voice of Orange Bowls past in Don Criqui?

Terry Sanders
Baton Rouge, La.

NBC had Enberg and Trumpy in Miami, but they were there to call the Miami-Kansas City NFL playoff game, not the Miami-Nebraska game. —
Editor

FINAL POLLS

Both final polls contain first-place votes in parentheses, 1994 records, total points (based on 25 points for first through one point for a 25th-place vote) and previous rankings.



USA Today/CNN Coaches' Poll

1.	Nebraska (54)	13-0-0	1,542	1
2.	Penn St. (8)	12-0-0	1,496	2
3.	Colorado	11-1-0	1,382	5
4.	Alabama	12-1-0	1,344	6
5.	Florida State	10-1-1	1,329	7
6.	Miami (Fla.)	10-2-0	1,229	3
7.	Florida	10-2-1	1,186	4
8.	Utah	10-2-0	1,029	12
9.	Ohio State	9-4-0	842	11
10.	Brigham Young	10-3-0	832	19
11.	Oregon	9-4-0	831	9
12.	Michigan	8-4-0	787	18
13.	Virginia	9-3-0	765	16
14.	Colorado State	10-2-0	681	10
15.	Southern Cal	8-3-1	670	22
16.	Kansas State	9-3-0	661	8
17.	North Carolina State	9-3-0	626	20
18.	Tennessee	8-4-0	520	24
19.	Washington State	8-4-0	449	23
20.	Arizona	8-4-0	405	13
21.	North Carolina	8-4-0	313	14
22.	Boston College	7-4-1	304	25
23.	Texas	8-4-0	244	NR
24.	Virginia Tech	8-4-0	189	15
25.	Mississippi State	8-4-0	158	17

Associated Press Top 25

1.	Nebraska (51.5)	13-0-0	1,539.5	1
2.	Penn St. (10.5)	12-0-0	1,497.5	2
3.	Colorado	11-1-0	1,410	4
4.	Florida State	10-1-1	1,320	7
5.	Alabama	12-1-0	1,312	6
6.	Miami	10-2-0	1,249	3
7.	Florida	10-2-1	1,153	5
8.	Texas A&M	10-0-1	1,117	8
9.	Auburn	9-1-1	1,110	9
10.	Utah	10-2-0	955	14
11.	Oregon	9-4-0	810	12
12.	Michigan	8-4-0	732	20
13.	Southern Cal	8-3-1	691	21
14.	Ohio State	9-4-0	672	13
15.	Virginia	9-3-0	648	18
16.	Colorado State	10-2-0	630	10
17.	N. Carolina State	9-3-0	511	23
18.	Brigham Young	10-3-0	500	22
19.	Kansas State	9-3-0	496	11
20.	Arizona	8-4-0	364	15
21.	Washington State	8-4-0	344	24
22.	Tennessee	8-4-0	303	NR
23.	Boston College	7-4-1	236	NR
24.	Mississippi State	8-4-0	160	16
25.	Texas	8-4-0	90	NR



Winning the Orange Bowl trophy for the first time since 1983 gave Nebraska faithful plenty to cheer about.

HUSKERS, NOT PENN STATE, IS NO. 1

While Penn State claims it should also be national champion, the Huskers clearly had to overcome the most obstacles to No. 1, and thus, deserve the title in both polls.

Penn State had a great team, but had an easier schedule, was injury-free, only had 11 games to win in the regular season and an easier opponent in the bowl.

The Big Red, on the other hand, won 13 games, had to overcome the loss of Tommie Frazier for much of the season, beat a No. 3 Colorado team that was rolling through its opponents, and finally beat the Hurricanes on their hallowed grounds of the Orange Bowl.

What else can you say about Nebraska? The Huskers are No. 1.

Penn State is not. And deservedly so.

You have a great magazine for a great team.

Richard Lechler
Cincinnati, Ohio

GREAT PLAY CALLING

It was beautiful to watch my Huskers run through the Miami "vaunted" defense in the fourth quarter.

Nebraska has received a lot of criticism over the years for our offense being too run-oriented.

Where was Miami's passing game in the second half?

Coach Osborne made the move of the year when he decided to run the option with Tommie Frazier in the fourth quarter. The Hurricanes didn't know what hit them.

And it was good to see Nebraska could pass when it needed to. Brook Berringer got a TD pass, and Frazier got the MVP. Things couldn't have worked out better for the Big Red.

Congratulations to the Huskers, Coach Osborne and all of the Nebraska fans across the country.

Corey Williamson
La Jolla, Calif.

GREAT YEAR FOR NU

What a year for Nebraska athletics. The football team wins the national title, and the mens gymnastics team wins it all, too. The Huskers' basketball team wins the Big Eight Tournament and reaches the NCAA Tournament, and Eric Piatkowski is drafted in the first round of the NBA.

While everyone is concentrating on the football team's accomplishments, let us not forget all the feats Nebraska's teams have accomplished, from the revenue-producers to the non-revenue-generating sports.

Congratulations to the whole athletic department, and best of luck in 1995!

Angela Cooper
Omaha, Nebraska

PANDEMOMIUM

I was upset that I couldn't make it to Miami for the game. There just weren't enough tickets. So you can just image how excited I was when we won and they announced that there would be a rally that we, the unfortunate and ticketless, could attend.

When the team came walking in, chills ran up my spine. It was so exciting. I can't even image how loud it was in the Orange Bowl.

Sherry Allen
Lincoln, Neb.

We would like to see your opinions on Nebraska athletics throughout the year. Please send your comments and questions to Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-3222. Huskers Illustrated reserves the right to edit prior to printing. ■

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On your successful 1994
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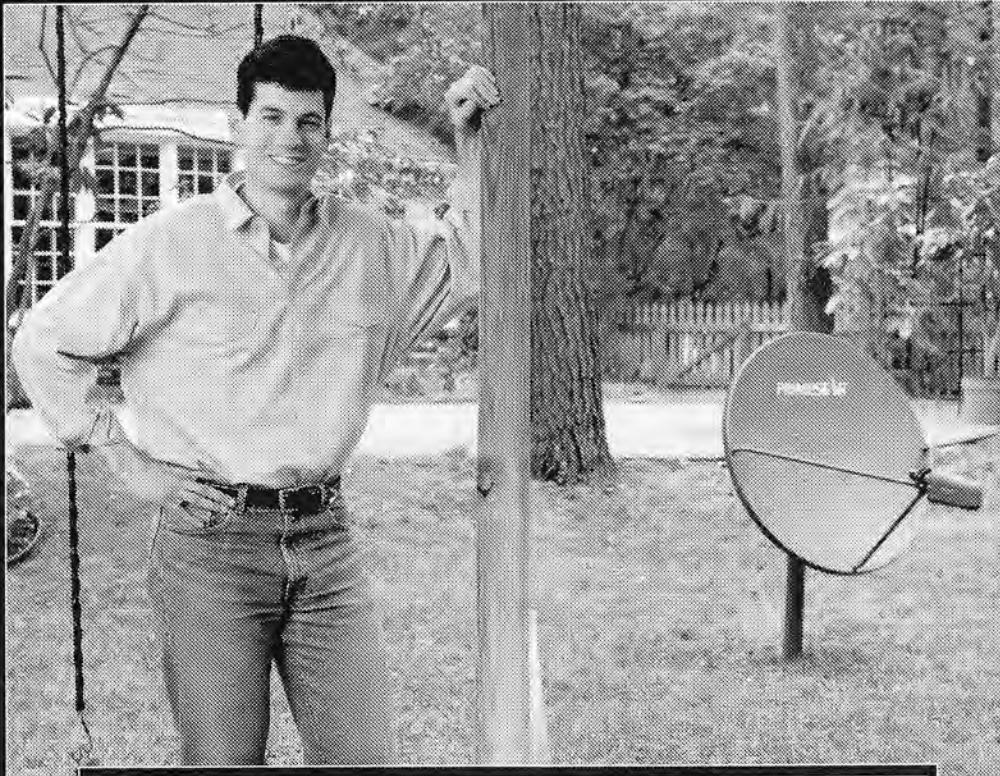
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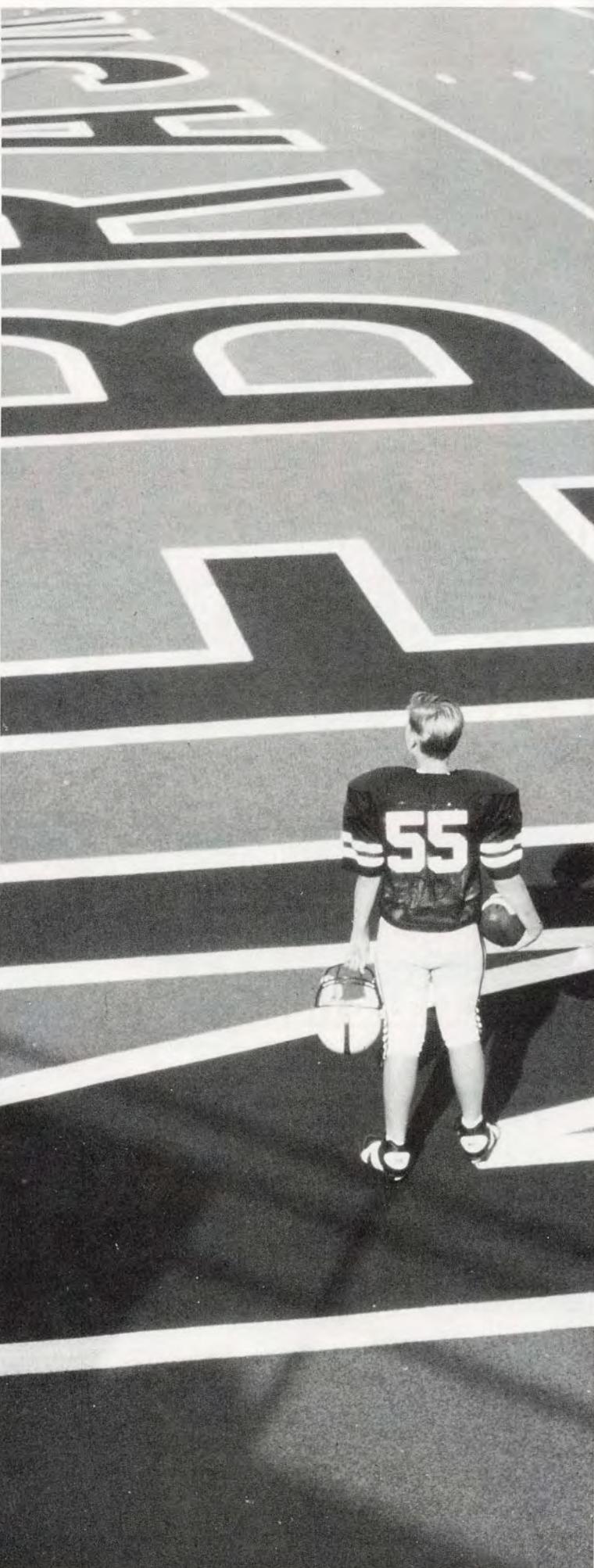
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**STATISTICS
VS.
MIAMI**

FedEx



JANUARY 1, 1995

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
Nebraska	0	7	2	15	— 24
Miami	10	0	7	0	— 17

TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	MIAMI
First Downs	20	14
Rushing	15	4
Passing	4	10
Penalty	1	0
Rushing Attempts	46	28
Yards Gained Rushing	233	98
Yards Lost Rushing	34	69
Net yards rushing	199	29
Net yards passing	106	248
Passes attempted	20	35
Passes completed	11	18
Had intercepted	2	1
Total plays	66	63
Total net yards	305	277
Avg. gain per play	4.6	4.4
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties-yards	3-20	11-92
Punts-yards	7-288	7-278
Avg. per punt	41.1	39.7
Possession time	32:32	27:28
Third Down Efficiency	3-11	3-13

DEFENSIVE STATS

	NEBRASKA			
	MIAMI			
Tackles	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Int.
Miles	9	0	0	0
Veland	4	2	0	0
Stewart	3	2	0	0
Ellis	3	2	0	0
Colman	3	1	0	0
Jones	1	3	0	0
Harris	4	0	3	0
Connealy	3	1	1	0
Dumas	2	1	1	0
Williams, T.	2	1	0	0
Moss	2	1	0	1
Wistrom	2	1	0	0
Hesse	1	0	0	0
Tackles	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Int.
Richardson	7	3	0	0
Davis	9	0	0	0
Sapp	5	1	2	0
Lewis	8	5	0	0
Lang	3	0	1	0
Little	2	0	0	1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

NEBRASKA

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Phillips	19	96	5.1	25	0
Schlesinger	6	48	8.0	15	2
Childs	3	1	0.3	1	0
Benning	3	18	6.0	9	0
Frazier	7	31	4.4	25	0
Berringer	7	-4	-0.6	7	0
Washington	1	9	9.0	9	0

MIAMI

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Stewart	17	72	4.2	21	0
Jones, L.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Ferguson	2	1	0.5	4	0
Costa	6	-17	-2.9	7	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA

Player	Com./Att.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Frazier	3/5	1	25	0
Berringer	8/15	1	81	1

MIAMI

Player	Com./Att.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Costa	18/35	1	248	2

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Phillips	4	13	7	0
Gilman	1	19	19	1
Holbein	1	7	7	0
Muhammad	4	60	19	0
Baul	1	7	7	0

MIAMI

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Tellison	2	53	43	0
Jones, C.T.	6	63	18	0
German	3	22	17	0
Jones, T.	1	35	35	1
Chambers	1	14	14	0
Harris	1	44	44	1
Wimberly	2	18	13	0

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
None			
Prewitt	1	1	44

MIAMI

Player	Att.	Comp.	Long
Prewitt	1	1	44

INSIDE THE NUMBERS



TOTAL OFFENSE

305



NET RUSHING YARDS

199



29



PENALTIES

3-20



11-92



TURNOVER MARGIN

Minus 2



Plus 2



32:32



27:28



THIRD-DOWN CONVERSION

3-11



3-13



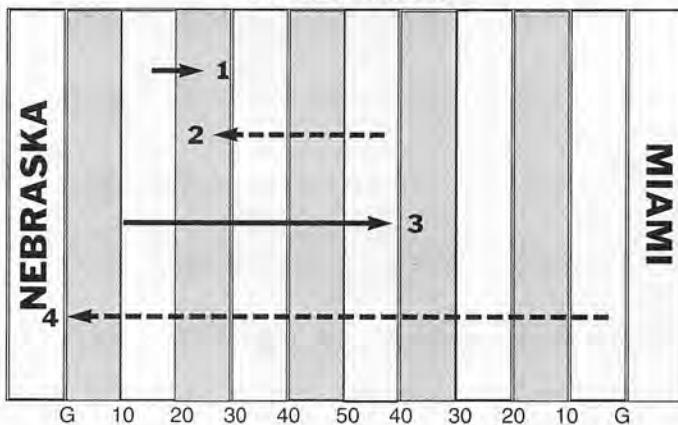
**1994
ORANGE BOWL
DRIVE
CHARTS**

The Miami Hurricanes won the coin toss and deferred to the second half. Nebraska elected to receive and Miami defended the east goal — the same goal Florida State elected to defend in last year's Orange Bowl.

We have used solid lines to indicate Nebraska drives and dotted lines for Miami. Highlights (and lowlights) of each drive are included below each graph. Drives that appear to be going the wrong way designate drives that resulted in lost yardage.

NEBRASKA

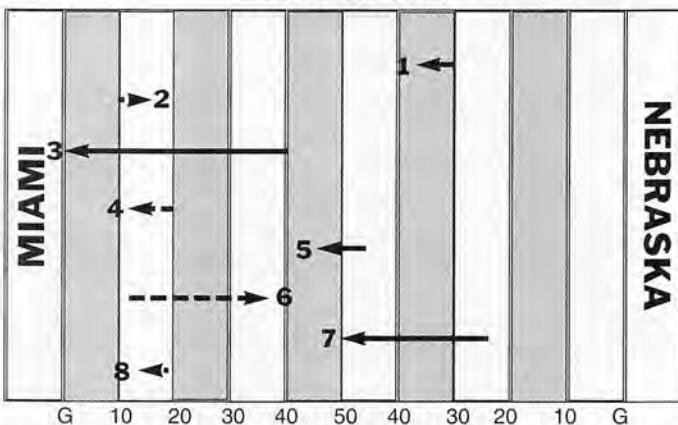
FIRST QUARTER



- 1) Tommie Frazier started the game at quarterback, but he could not get the Huskers rolling early. Nebraska gained just 7 yards on the opening drive and had to punt from its own 23-yard line. Frazier's pass to Octavious McFarlin fell incomplete on third-and-three to halt the game's opening drive.
- 2) Miami took over on its own 42-yard line and drove to the Nebraska 27-yard line before settling for a 44-yard field goal with 7:54 left in the first quarter. An 18-yard pass from Frank Costa to split end Chris Jones highlighted the drive for the Hurricanes.
- 3) The Huskers started on their own 10-yard line and sustained a solid drive to the Miami 41-yard line. Lawrence Phillips had four runs for 24 yards and caught one pass for 6 yards. However, Frazier had a pass intercepted at the Miami 3-yard line, stopping the scoring march.
- 4) Miami's most impressive drive of the night started at its own 3-yard line and culminated with a 35-yard touchdown pass from Costa to Jones. Miami led, 10-0, after the first quarter.

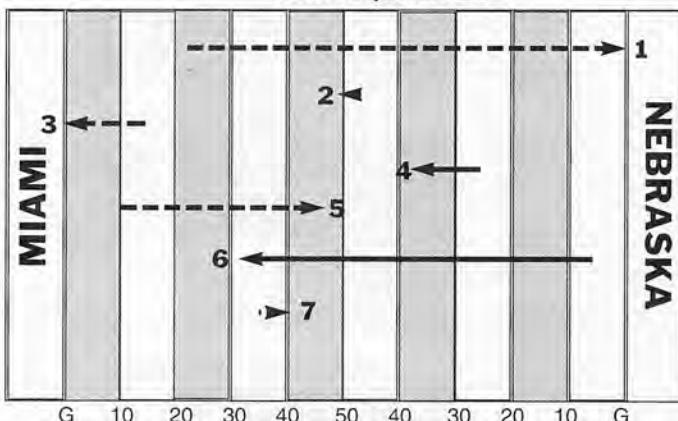
MIAMI

SECOND QUARTER



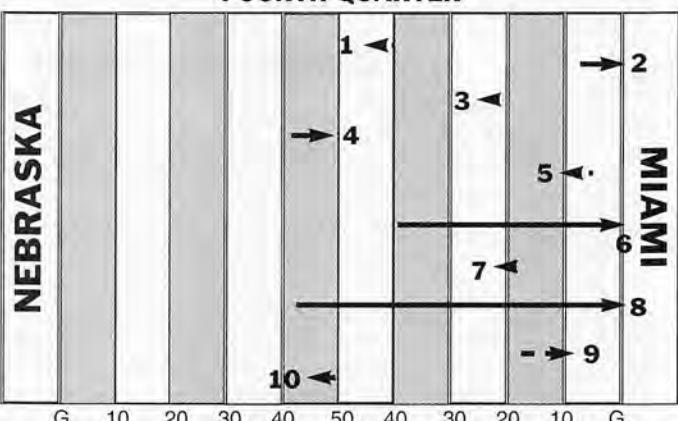
- 1) Brook Berringer was sacked for a loss of 12 on third-and-seven, forcing the Huskers to punt at their own 36-yard line.
- 2) Miami took over at its own 10-yard line, but could only reach only the 12-yard line after a pair of penalties. A punt from its own 12 gave Nebraska prime field position.
- 3) The Huskers took advantage of the good field position, beginning a drive at the Hurricane 40-yard line. Berringer remained in the ballgame and found tight end Mark Gilman in the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown with 7:38 left before halftime. Miami led, 10-7.
- 4) Miami lost yardage on its next drive after starting at its own 20-yard line and was forced to kick the ball away at its own 11.
- 5) Nebraska got good field position at its own 47, but couldn't take advantage of it gaining only 5 yards on the drive.
- 6) Miami completed a 21-yard pass, but had three straight incompletes.
- 7) NU reached the 50 with Berringer at the helm, but was forced to punt.
- 8) Miami runs out the clock to end the first half leading 10-7.

THIRD QUARTER



- 1) Miami took over at its own 22-yard line to begin the second half and reached the Nebraska 44. Then Costa burned the Husker defense for a 44-yard touchdown pass to Jonathan Harris. With 1:41 gone in the third quarter, Miami led, 17-7.
- 2) Nebraska was three-and-out on its first possession of the second half as Berringer threw two passes out of bounds.
- 3) Miami was pinned back at its own 14-yard line after the Nebraska punt. The Husker defense rose to the forefront and sacked Costa for a safety, pulling Nebraska to within 17-9.
- 4) Nebraska gained just 13 yards after the free kick by Miami. The Huskers are hindered by a 5-yard delay of game penalty, and one play later, they are forced to punt.
- 5) Miami puts together a solid drive from its own 10-yard line to the 50-yard line, but a 4-yard loss on a pass play resulted in a punt.
- 6) Nebraska drives from its own 7-yard line to the Miami 31. Three long passes to Abdul Muhammad were the key plays on the drive, but a Berringer fumble recovered by Miami halted the scoring march.
- 7) Miami gained 4 yards on a running play as the third quarter ended.

FOURTH QUARTER



- 1) The ball was snapped over the head of the Miami punter and illegally kicked through the end zone, giving NU possession at the Miami 4.
- 2) Berringer's pass was intercepted in the end zone on the first play.
- 3) Costa was sacked and after another holding call are forced to punt.
- 4) Nebraska still trailed, 17-9, and didn't get any closer on the drive on a three-and-out series.
- 5) Same fourth-quarter story for Miami — three plays, one yard, time to punt.
- 6) Nebraska sensed Miami was wearing down and drove from the Miami 40 for the score. Cory Schlesinger capped the drive with a 15-yard touchdown run. Frazier hit tight end Eric Alford for the two-point conversion, and with 7:38 left in the game, the score was tied at 17-17.
- 7) Miami gained 1 yard on its next possession and kicked away again.
- 8) The Huskers got the ball at their own 42-yard line, and with the option clicking with Frazier in the game, NU drove to the Miami 14. Schlesinger hit the hole again and scored for a 24-17 lead.
- 9) Miami was intercepted by Kareem Moss on fourth-and-19.
- 10) Nebraska runs out the clock and is the 1994 national champion.

N U N O T E B O O K

The Choice Is Yours, But . . .

Nebraska dressed in the visitors' locker room for its Orange Bowl game against Miami, even though technically it was the home team.

Because of the Big Eight's affiliation with the Orange Bowl, its champion is the designated host.

However, Miami plays its home games at the Orange Bowl stadium, a situation that caused Orange Bowl executive director Keith Tribble some consternation before Nebraska arrived.

During a news conference in Lincoln before the team left for Miami, Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne said Tribble had notified Nebraska that Orange Bowl officials "couldn't secure the larger locker room if we used it."

The larger locker room, of course, was the one used by Miami for its home games. "I was scared and thought we'd take our National Guard down there or something. When the whole Miami Police Department can't provide us security in the larger locker room, we decided it would be a lot easier just to move," Osborne said.

Before the matter was laid to rest, with Nebraska agreeing to use the visitors' locker room, the governors of Nebraska and Florida addressed the issue. Cornhusker Athletic Director Bill Byrne said a newspaper story about the locker room assignments "seemed to incense Miami fans, and the police could not guarantee our safety. That does not make a lot of sense to me."

The Miami Police took offense at the suggestion, of course, and handled security throughout Nebraska's stay in Miami without incident.

The Orange Bowl did its part, carpeting the visitors' locker room, adding air conditioning for the first time and painting the walls white with red stripes to make the Cornhuskers feel at home. In three previous Orange Bowl games, Nebraska also was relegated to the visitors' locker room, even though two of those three games were against Florida State, not Miami.

An Elephant-Sized Problem

The Orange Bowl Classic's halftime extravaganza had a circus theme, complete with elephants on parade. The problem was, during rehearsals on the field, the elephants did some damage to the prescription turf surface, prompting Osborne to ask officials to rethink the program.

Osborne was able to joke about it during his final news conference leading up to the game. "If we have to hop over the elephant tracks, that would make for some interesting play calling," he said.

Malcolm Moran of the *New York Times* asked Osborne if Brook Berringer or Tommie Frazier would be better prepared to play quarterback on a field pocked with pachyderm prints.

"Probably Berringer," Osborne replied. "He'll throw over them."



TOM OSBORNE:
Had an elephant-sized problem
with the halftime show

In A Rush

Nebraska rushed for 199 yards against the Hurricanes, more than twice its total in the two previous Orange Bowl games with Miami. In a 23-3 loss in the 1989 game, the Cornhuskers managed only 80 yards rushing. They ran for 82 yards in a 22-0 loss to the Hurricanes in the 1992 game.

The Orange Bowl In Joe Robbie Stadium

The Orange Bowl game will be played at Joe Robbie Stadium beginning in two years. The 1996 Orange Bowl game will be the last in the Orange Bowl stadium, which was dedicated in 1937.

Miami, by the way, lost the dedication game, 26-0.

The National Football League's Super Bowl has been played five times in the Orange Bowl stadium, and numerous national college football champions have been crowned there.

But Orange Bowl officials grudgingly agreed to move their game from the venerable stadium in order to participate in the new bowl alliance. Members of the alliance, which will attempt to arrange the best possible national championship matches on a rotating basis involving the Orange, Sugar and Fiesta Bowls, were concerned about the possibility of Miami having a home-field advantage.

The final Orange Bowl to be played in the stadium will match the No. 3 and No. 5 picks next New Year's night. The Fiesta Bowl will have the No. 1 and No. 2 picks. And the Sugar Bowl will have picks No. 4 and 6.

The Big Eight Conference pact with the Orange Bowl expired with the Cornhuskers' victory against Miami.

No Longer A "Dead" End

Cory Schlesinger's touchdown runs took him into the Orange Bowl's east end zone. It was there, in Nebraska's 31-30 loss in the 1984 Orange Bowl game, that Turner Gill's two-point conversion pass intended for Jeff Smith was deflected by Miami's Ken Calhoun. And Byron Bennett's 45-yard field goal attempt at the end of the 18-16 loss against Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl game sailed wide of the goal posts in the east end zone.

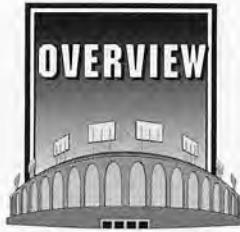


CORY SCHLESINGER:
Damaging the east end zone

The Call

Osborne was contacted by President Bill Clinton immediately following the Nebraska win.

"The President just said that he was proud of us," Osborne said. "He said that he had kind of been following us. He's seen us come close a lot of times."



National Champion Instincts

Tom Osborne's ability to interchange quarterbacks ultimately helps decide the game in the fourth quarter

By MIKE BABCOCK

MIAMI — The proof was in the result: Nebraska's Orange Bowl game victory against Miami and the national championship that went with it. Everything else was moot.

Under the circumstances, Tom Osborne couldn't have utilized his quarterbacks any more effectively. His wisdom was questioned, however, until the final minutes. Much of the evening, the pressbox cynics, many of whom were watching Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer for the first time, said it was obvious why the national title had eluded Osborne. Berringer should have started. Anyone could see that.

After Frazier threw an interception on what appeared to be an ill-advised pass late in the first quarter, Osborne's critics were even more adamant. They would remain so until Berringer was intercepted on first-and-goal from Miami's 4-yard

line just over a minute into the fourth quarter.

Even then, they didn't relent. Berringer, who failed to throw the ball away, shouldn't have thrown it at all, what with that big offensive line pounding the Hurricanes, they said. Bad decisions, bad play calling. Had the Cornhuskers lost, Osborne would have been second-guessed, mercilessly.

Osborne said afterward that he and quarterbacks coach Turner Gill relied on instinct as much as anything in handling Frazier and Berringer. And Osborne's instincts proved to be of national championship caliber.

How Osborne would utilize his junior quarterbacks was a focus of attention from the minute the team charter landed at Miami International Airport two days before Christmas.

After his petition to gain a hardship season was denied by the NCAA, and with clearance from his doctors, Frazier was available to play in the Orange Bowl game. He also could have played in Nebraska's final regular-season game against Oklahoma, had something happened to Berringer.

With another month to recover from the blood clot problem that had sidelined

him since late September, however, Frazier no longer was just an emergency back-up. He was a candidate, along with Berringer, to start against Miami on New Year's night.

Osborne said he would evaluate both quarterbacks, placing special emphasis on a scrimmage the day before Christmas, and announce the starter at the Orange Bowl media day, on the Thursday before the game.

Opinion was divided. Some, perhaps most, argued that Berringer should start because he had led the Cornhuskers to the Big Eight title and put them in a position to play for the national championship, after replacing the injured Frazier. The team had become "his," they said.

Others argued that Frazier hadn't lost the starting job because of poor performance. Osborne has a well-documented policy stating that starters do not become backups because of injuries. When an injured starter returns, he returns a starter.

True, said Berringer's supporters. But Frazier was sidelined nearly three months. Though healthy, his timing would be off.

Osborne dismissed that, noting Frazier had been able to practice; he hadn't been involved in contact because of blood-thinners.

The scrimmage would provide a test of his ability to take a hit. The rest would depend on performance.



Tom Osborne's decision to play both Tommie Frazier (left) and Brook Berringer (above) was questioned until the final minutes of the Orange Bowl.

"We both have nothing to hang our heads about. We both made some mistakes. We both made some good plays. We both helped our team win."

— Brook Berringer



Those who took Berringer's side in the matter also argued that Nebraska would have to pass in order to beat Miami, that because of the Hurricanes' speed on defense, Frazier's options would be rendered harmless.

Nevertheless, Osborne picked Frazier, who graded better in the pre-Christmas scrimmage. Berringer, who had been ill since the previous day, threw two interceptions during the scrimmage, one of which was the result of his being hit from a blindside as he released the ball. Still, Berringer's participation in the scrimmage, despite being ill, was

evidence of his grit.

Osborne was open to second-guessing regardless of his decision on a starting quarterback. There was no "fair" solution to the problem, which wasn't really a problem as far as he was concerned, Osborne said when he announced his choice of Frazier.

Berringer would play, and play during the first half, he added.

Osborne's wisdom was questioned as the Orange Bowl game progressed and the Cornhuskers fell behind, 17-7. With the entire 60 minutes as a basis for judgment, however, there could be no questions about

his utilization of Frazier and Berringer. Berringer had come on to put Nebraska on the scoreboard with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Mark Gilman midway through the second quarter.

To use a pitching metaphor, Berringer played the role of set-up man, keeping Nebraska in position to beat Miami in the fourth quarter, when Frazier returned, in relief, to finish off the weary Hurricanes.

Frazier was chosen the Cornhuskers' outstanding player, for a second consecutive Orange Bowl game, but Berringer's contribution to the victory was no less significant.

Afterward, Berringer summed it up. "We both have nothing to hang our heads about," he said. "We both made some mistakes. We both made some good plays. We both helped our team win."

Osborne said he considered leaving Berringer in for the fourth quarter, "but I felt it was time for Tommie. I just felt like it was time to get Tommie (back) in."

He relied on instinct. And the scoreboard indicated his instinct was right.

It read: Nebraska 24, Miami 17. ■

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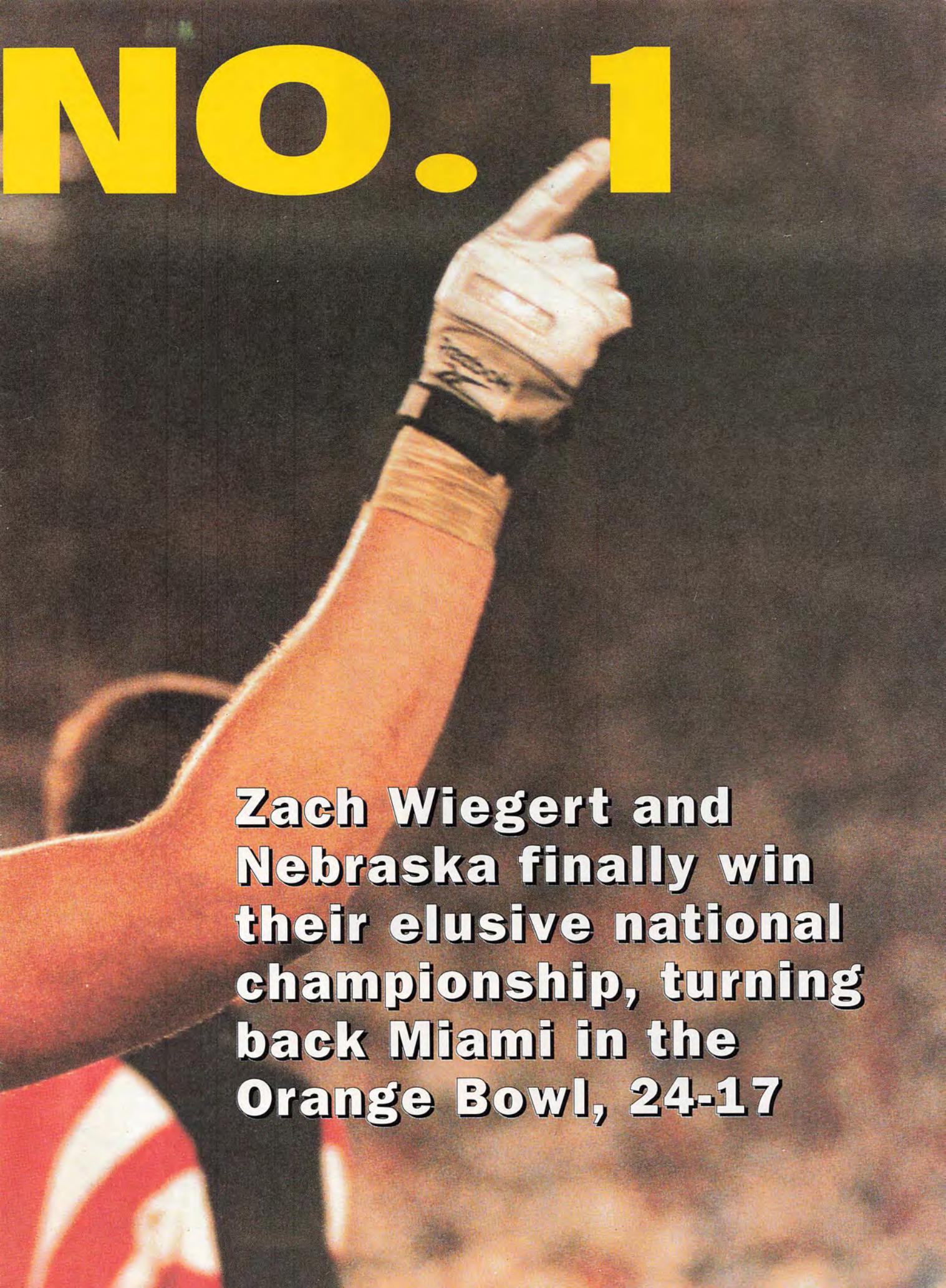
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back Miami in the
Orange Bowl, 24-17**



It was done.

A sign displayed by some of the 20,000-plus Nebraska football fans in the Orange Bowl stadium on New Year's night said: "Unfinished Business."

A line was drawn through the "Un." Nebraska 24, Miami 17.

The Cornhuskers were 13-0. They had achieved a season of perfection. They were national champions.

Tom Osborne said he had never coached a team with such resolve, such determination to complete a task. The 1993 Cornhuskers had come up one game short of perfection, losing to Florida State, 18-16, in the 1994 Orange Bowl game. That night, those who returned committed themselves to getting back to Miami and completing the task.

Their resolve was tested along the way. But they persisted, winning 12 in a row and capturing a fourth consecutive Big Eight title.

That title was their ticket to Miami, where they were matched against the third-ranked, 10-1 Hurricanes.

Miami's only loss was against Washington, 38-20, in the third game of the season at the Orange Bowl stadium, where the Hurricanes had posted an NCAA-record 58 consecutive victories.

The Hurricanes had recovered from the Washington loss to win eight in a row. Their record in the Orange Bowl stadium since 1985 was 62-1.

There could be no more difficult task than winning against Miami in the Orange Bowl, particularly since a victory would give the Hurricanes an outside chance at a fifth national championship in 12 years.

The game matched Miami's defensive speed and pass-oriented offense against Nebraska's restructured defense and option attack. Because of Miami's home-field advantage, the game was nearly even at kickoff.

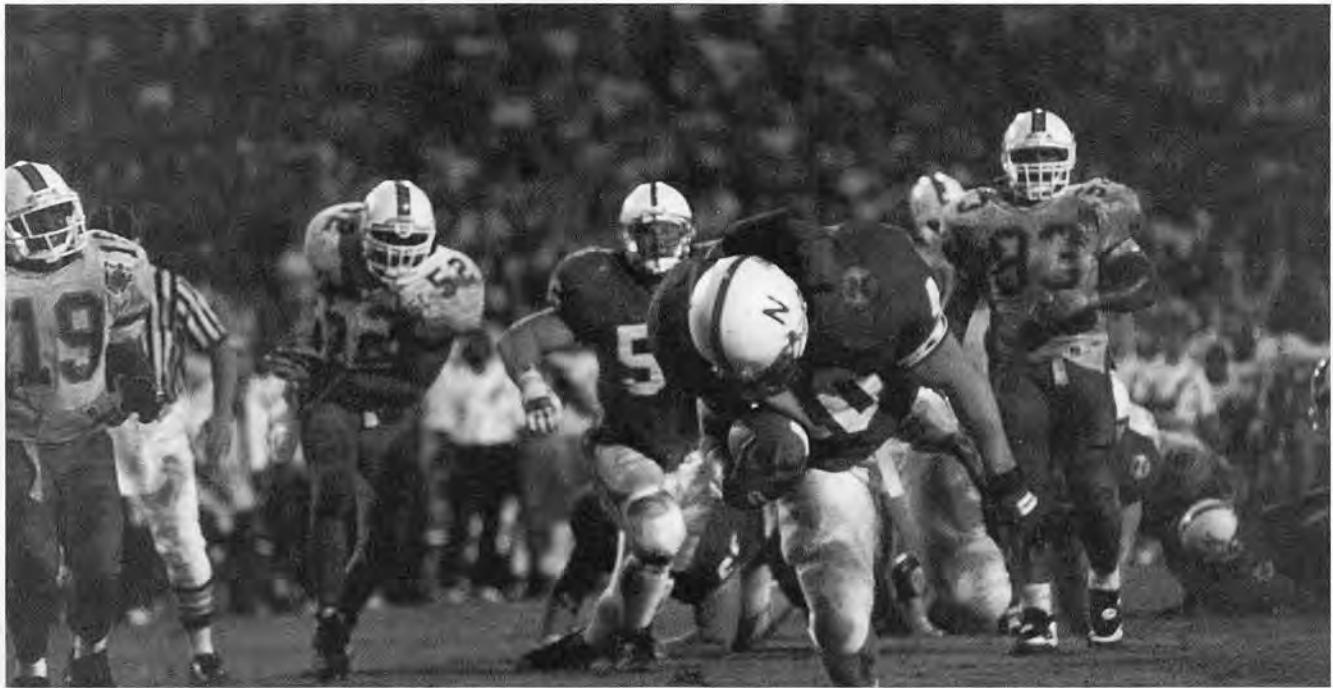
The Hurricanes started quickly, scoring 10 points in the first quarter, on Dane Prewitt's 44-yard field goal and a 35-yard touchdown pass from

Tom Osborne was the center of attention after finally winning his first national title.

Orange Bowl photos by Scott B. Smith

ORANGE BOWL REVIEW





Frank Costa to Trent Jones. The scoring pass completed a five-play sequence that covered 97 yards in two minutes and 35 seconds. As Yogi Berra once said, it was déjà vu all over again.

While Miami's offense thrived early, Nebraska's struggled under the direction of Tommie Frazier, who started at quarterback after having missed eight games, and most of a ninth, because of blood clot problems.

The Cornhuskers reeled off four first downs on their second possession, moving from their own 10-yard line to the Miami 41. But on a first-and-10, Frazier threw an interception.

The turnover, at the Hurricane 3-yard line, preceded Miami's first touchdown drive — that is, if five plays, including pass completions of 17, 43 and 35 yards, can be considered a drive.

When Nebraska got the ball after the ensuing kickoff, Brook Berringer replaced Frazier. Berringer's first series was unsuccessful, but his second put the Cornhuskers on the scoreboard.

Capitalizing on good position, something it had much of the game, Nebraska struck quickly, covering 40 yards in five plays. The fifth was a 19-yard touchdown pass from Berringer to tight end Mark Gilman. Nebraska trailed at halftime, 10-7.

With Miami flying around defensively, Nebraska utilized trap plays to free fullback Cory Schlesinger (40) for two touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

Miami wasted no time in increasing its lead to 17-7, opening the second half with another five-play series, culminating in a touchdown pass, this time a 44-yarder from Costa to Jonathan Harris. The pass was short. Harris did the work.

And with 13:19 remaining in the third quarter, Miami led, 17-7. Most in the Orange Bowl record crowd of 81,753 couldn't have imagined that the Hurricanes were to score no more.

Even so, Miami seemed to be in control. Nebraska got two points back when outside linebacker Dwayne Harris tackled Costa for a safety.

But the Cornhuskers went into the fourth quarter trailing, 17-9.

Miami was showing signs of vulnerability, however.

"Our approach going in was to be as physical offensively as we could be," Osborne said. "We felt we couldn't run all the time, but we thought we could wear them down. We felt by the fourth quarter, we accomplished some of what we tried

Miami had success early, but they became worn down in the second half as the Black Shirts put pressure on quarterback Frank Costa, who was sacked five times for 24 yards in losses and a safety.



BEST & WORST OF THE ORANGE BOWL EXPERIENCE

Best Post Game Quote: Rob Zatechka — "After Corey Schlesinger made that second touchdown in the fourth quarter, I felt sorry for Penn State for about five seconds."

Worst Host: Several Orange Bowl Committee members (OBCM) let their true colors show during the Orange Bowl parade. Toward the end of the parade, the Nebraska band marched by the VIP section playing the Husker fight song. Most of the OBC stood as the band passed and politely clapped along, but two minutes later when the Hurricanes band came into sight, several of the OBC jumped to their feet and began cheering.

One OBC member wildly yelled, "Go Canes" over and over.

Worst Breath: Warren Sapp made a habit of running by the Nebraska bench early in the game shaking his head, ranting and raving. On one venture to the sideline he stood two feet in front of Coach Tom Osborne snorting, "You don't have Hurricanes in Nebraska. Pack up the troops and go home."

Osborne just smiled and turned around remarking that Sapp could use some Listerine.

Most Nervous Performers: The notorious Orange Bowl elephants, part of the halftime show, "It's a Circus," made their presence felt off the field when they were invited to strut their stuff in the OB parade.

The lumbering giants made their way down Biscayne Boulevard to the appointed performance before the VIP section in the parade stands. The animals began their show by grabbing each other's tails and rolling over before moving on to tricks involving standing on their hind legs and leaning on each other in a carefully orchestrated move.

But then two of the elephants turned and unleashed a considerable reserve of waste products squarely in front of a row of shocked OBCM.

Worst Orange Bowl Job: Cleaning up after the ele-

to establish."

After three quarters of pounding by Nebraska's offensive line, the Hurricane defense was beginning to wear down. Miami's Lombardi Trophy-winning defensive tackle Warren Sapp was out of the game late in the third quarter, kneeling on the sideline, trying to catch his breath.

The Hurricanes lacked depth, a problem compounded by an injury to defensive tackle Pat Riley. And without depth, they couldn't rotate players.

Osborne, however, could. And did, occasionally resting his No. 1 offensive line of Zach Wiegert, Joel

Wilks, Aaron Graham, Brenden Stai and Rob Zatechka for the stretch run.

Stai was moved from right guard to left guard so that he might be matched against the ubiquitous Sapp.

The Miami junior, who declared for the NFL draft after the game, was as good as advertised. And better.

"Sapp made a lot of plays. He was better than I thought he was and disrupted a lot of plays," Osborne said. "It looked like we'd start a great play, and he'd do something."

Osborne eventually began calling plays away from Sapp. "I knew

where he was," said Osborne.

Nebraska prepared itself to be in better physical condition for the fourth quarter, which was when the game would be won or lost. Instead of taking time off after the Oklahoma game, "we worked almost all the way through to the bowl," Osborne said.

"We ran a lot of windsprints and kept in good condition. The assumption is that a team from the north will wilt in the heat and humidity of South Florida. We worked hard to avoid that."

The Hurricane offense began to wear down for the same reason. Nebraska defensive coordinator



As usual, Nebraska fans traveled in hordes to support the Big Red.



phants on national television.

Best Fans: This would have to be a tie. First are the fans who were able to get a ticket and travel all the way to Miami for the fourth-straight year.

Second would be the thousands who lined up outside the Bob Devaney Sports Center hoping to gain entrance for the welcome home party. People began lining up before 8 a.m., enduring more than three hours of sub-zero temperatures before the doors were opened.

Best Baby Story: While receivers coach Ron Brown was busy helping the Huskers beat the Hurricanes, his expectant wife, Molvina, was busy with what seemed to be premature contractions. Molvina was not scheduled to give birth until March 1, 1995.

She requested that Ron be kept in the dark about her condition until the game was over and left the game at halftime. After returning to the hotel, she was told to rest and not watch the game. Bored, she called her mother in San Diego, Calif., and found out that her sister had gone into labor earlier in the evening while watching the game on television.

Molvina's sister gave birth to a healthy baby boy. Later that night it was determined that Molvina had false labor. ■

Charlie McBride alternated his players, thereby facilitating their ability to put pressure on Costa, who was sacked five times for 24 yards in losses.

He spent much of the second half picking himself up off the Orange Bowl's prescription turf.

Despite Miami's fast start offensively, McBride said he was confident. Nebraska's defenders "had been through this so many times and had done it so well, I thought they'd do it again," he said. "As far as work habits and a focus, this team had it.

"We also had great players, and a bit of luck, too."

An example of that luck came midway through the fourth quarter when, on a third-and-9 from the Miami 21-yard line, Hurricane wide receiver Taj Johnson was left uncovered because of a mix-up in the secondary. The freshman from Ardmore, Okla., was wide-open at the Nebraska 45-yard line. But Costa overthrew Johnson.

The Cornhuskers helped make their luck, however, with intense pressure on Costa, who was sprawled on the ground as the pass sailed over Johnson's head, incomplete.

By then, Nebraska had tied the score at 17, on a 15-yard touchdown run by fullback Cory Schlesinger and a two-point conversion pass from Frazier to tight end Eric Alford.

"They came with some pressure on me, but luckily I was able to get it off," Frazier said.

Frazier had returned with 12:07 left in the game, after Berringer mishandled a snap and threw an interception in the corner of the end zone on a first-and-goal at the Hurricane 4-yard line.

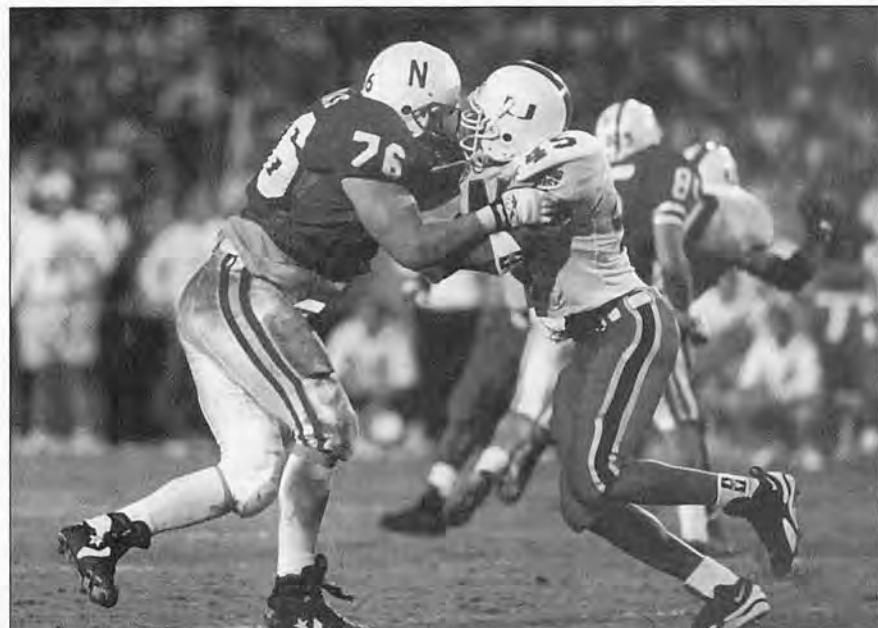
Osborne said he would have been comfortable with Berringer at quarterback for the finish.

"We were winging it with the quarterbacks," he said. "Brook deserved to play, and he played well, got a touchdown pass."

But Osborne's instinct, after consulting with quarterbacks coach Turner Gill, was to put Frazier back in because of his big-play ability. "That's what he does," Osborne said. "He makes something happen."

And Frazier did.

Frazier's first series of the fourth quarter netted only 7 yards. But his second produced the first of two touchdowns by Schlesinger.



When Joel Wilks (76) and his offensive line teammates began to take control in the fourth quarter, Lawrence Phillips (1) found the running room he needed.



Barron Miles (14) capped off a stellar senior year by disrupting Miami's passing efforts. But for those who couldn't suit up, their memories will be of the material nature — such as the turf from the Orange Bowl.





Nebraska began at the Miami 40-yard line with 8:11 remaining. On first down, Frazier pitched to Lawrence Phillips, who gained 25 yards, the longest run from scrimmage of the season against the Hurricanes.

Phillips finished with 96 yards on 19 carries. Though his performance was overshadowed by that of the quarterbacks and Schlesinger's two touchdowns, Phillips played a key role in the victory. The Miami defense was stacked against him, yet he gained more yards than Nebraska had managed as a team against the Hurricanes in two previous Orange Bowl games.

Schlesinger got the remaining yards on the next play, a trap that so caught Miami's defense by surprise that Schlesinger was well on his way before the Hurricanes responded.

The game-winning drive followed Costa's overthrown pass to Johnson and a mediocre punt. It began at Nebraska's 42-yard line,

Brook Berringer (18) put Nebraska on the scoreboard after a 19-yard scoring throw to tight end Mark Gilman in the second quarter. But as the Hurricanes began to tire late, Tommie Frazier (15) took over in the fourth and ultimately was able to savor the victory with Tom Osborne.

with 6:28 remaining.

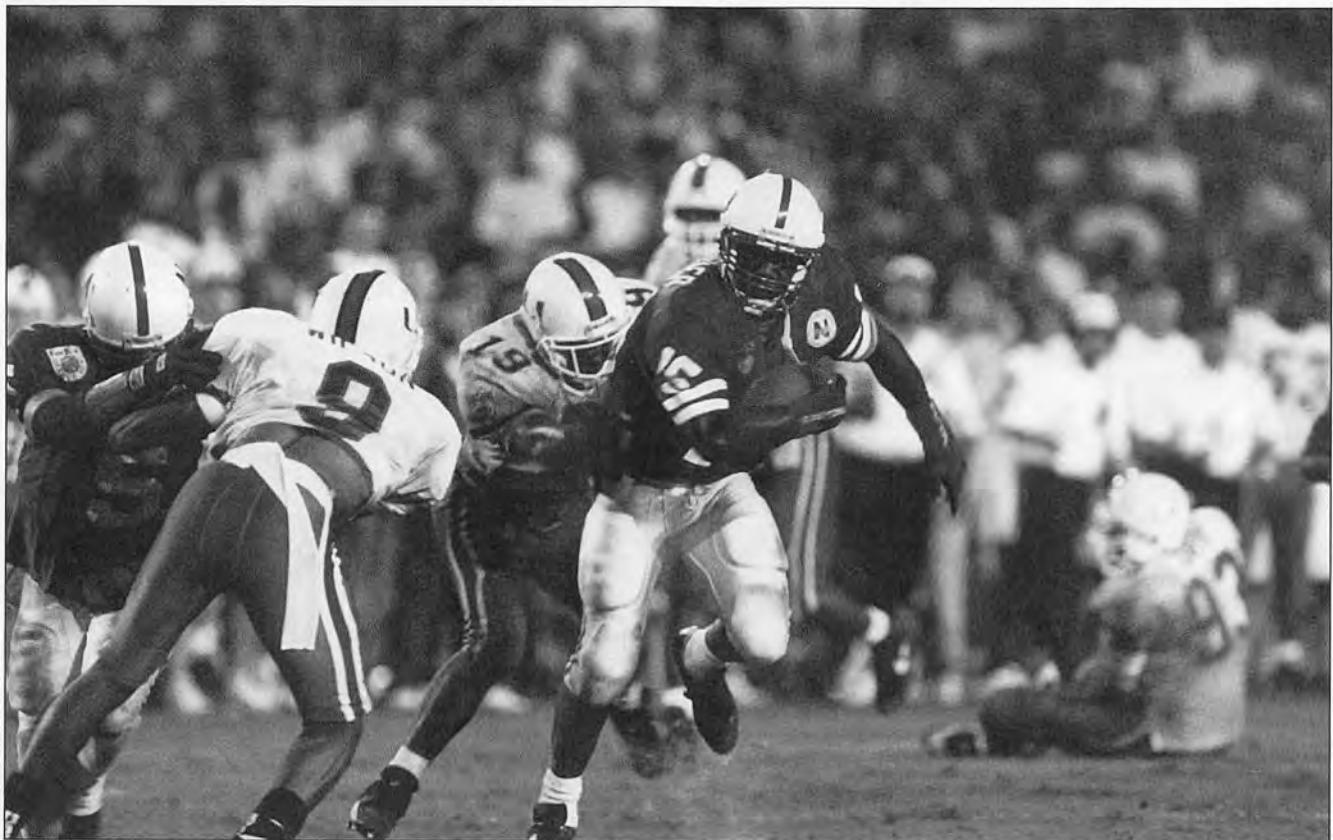
Twice in the seven-play drive the Cornhuskers faced third down. Frazier converted both times, running on options 25 yards and 6.

Miami's weary defenders were nearly helpless in the face of the charge by Nebraska's line.

"We felt very confident," Frazier said. "We knew that they were tired. Our line started to drive them off the ball. We like to give it to Cory at the end of the game because he's very reliable."

After Frazier's 6-yard run to the Hurricane 14, Schlesinger got the call again. And again he scored, leaving Miami defenders strewn in his wake. The winning touchdown, as with the one that preceded it, was scored on a trap play. "Miami was flying up the field, and we tried some traps,"

See ORANGE BOWL page 76



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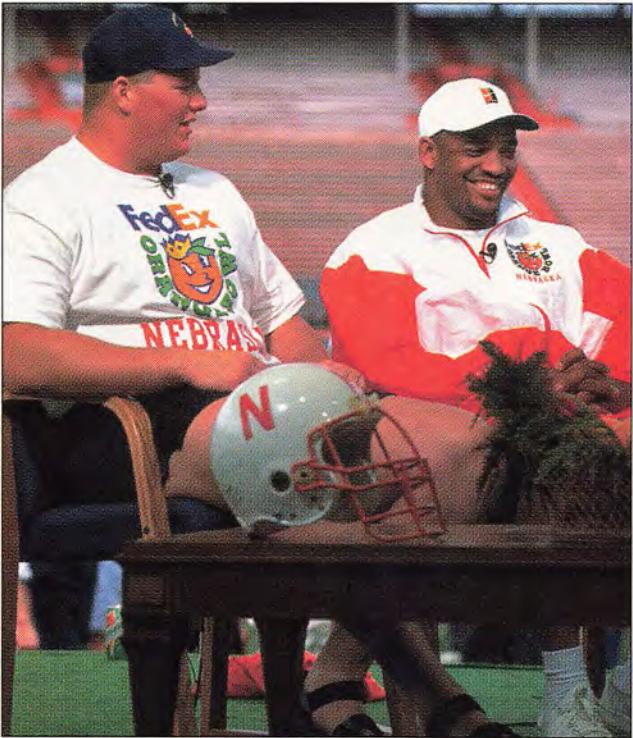
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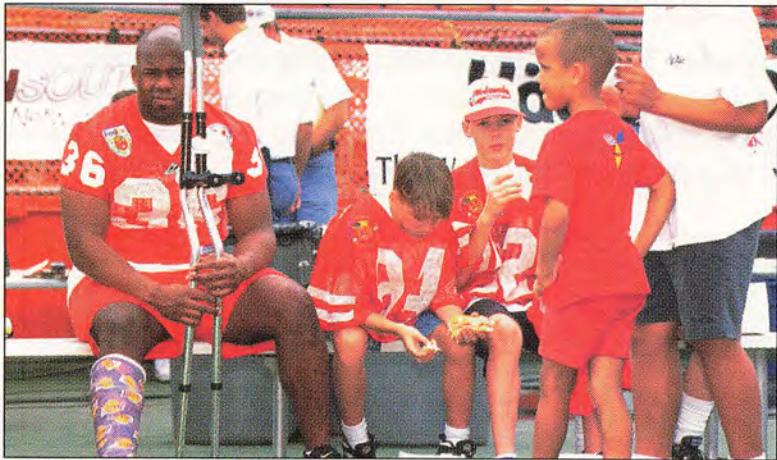
A WEEK AT THE ORANGE BOWL



Media day wasn't all business as Outland Trophy winner Zach Wiegert and Troy Dumas got the chance to cut up on a local television show.

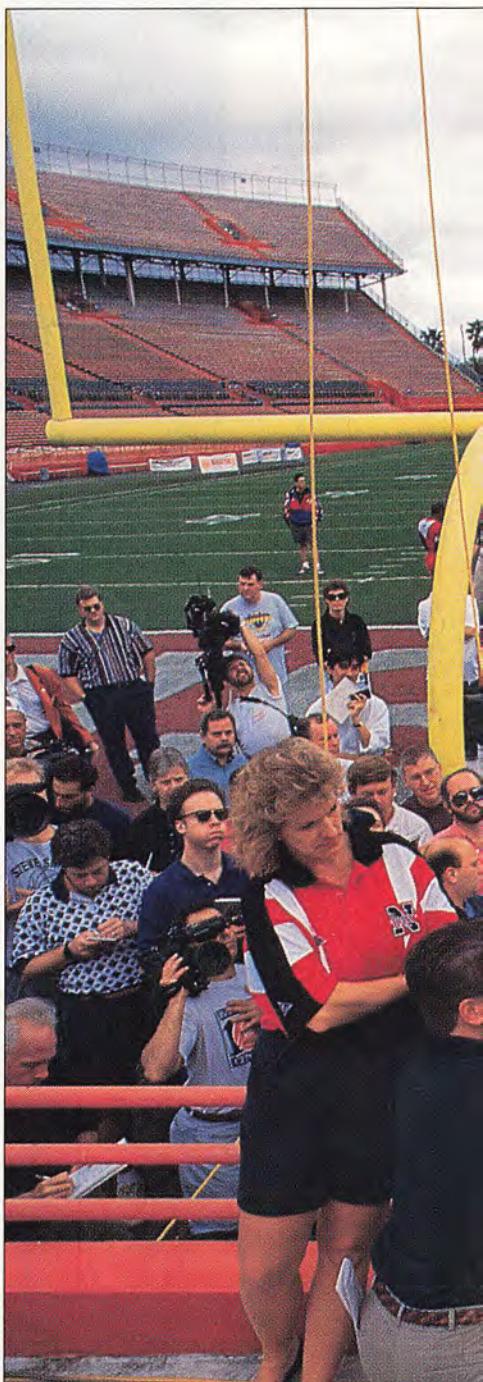


Scott B. Smith



Scott B. Smith

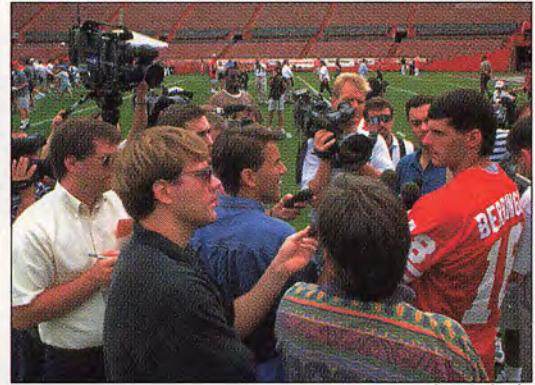
Leonard Alexander, a senior middle linebacker, has mixed emotions as he is forced to watch pre-bowl festivities from the sidelines.



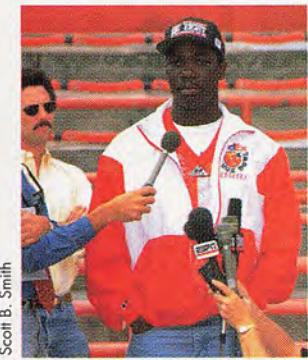
Scott B. Smith



Al Messerschmidt



Scott B. Smith



Scott B. Smith

The early buzz on media day revolved around who would start at quarterback. Would it be Brook Berringer, the reliable junior who did nothing more than lead Nebraska to the Orange Bowl after many doubted his ability. Or would it be Tommie Frazier, who hadn't taken a snap in a game for over three months?

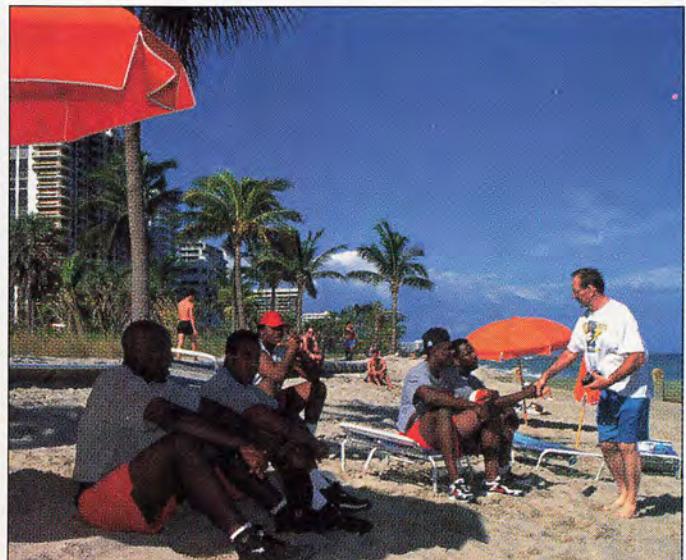
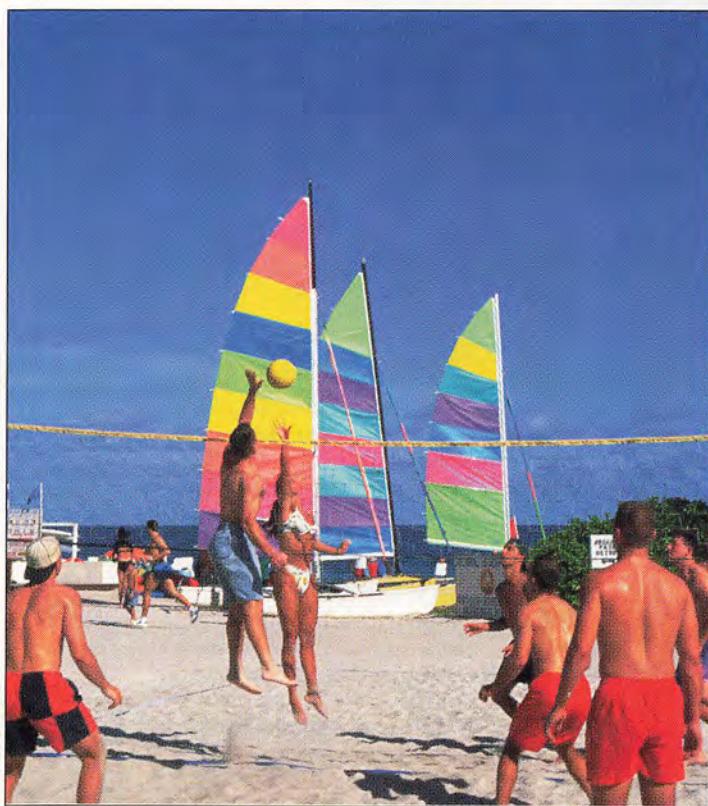
Tom Osborne put the rumors and second-guessing to rest as he announced Frazier would start, but both would play.



Jason Peter, Marvin Sims and Mike Hoffman didn't mind letting people know their team's ranking.



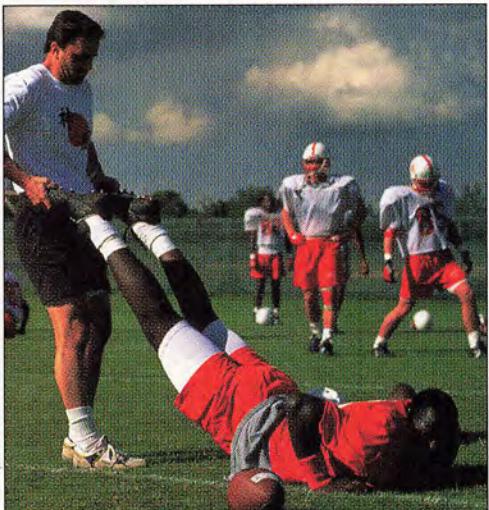
Getting away from the commotion associated with Miami, the team once again stayed at the Sheraton Bal Harbour and relaxed in the shade by meeting alumni and playing the locals in volleyball.



Scott B. Smith

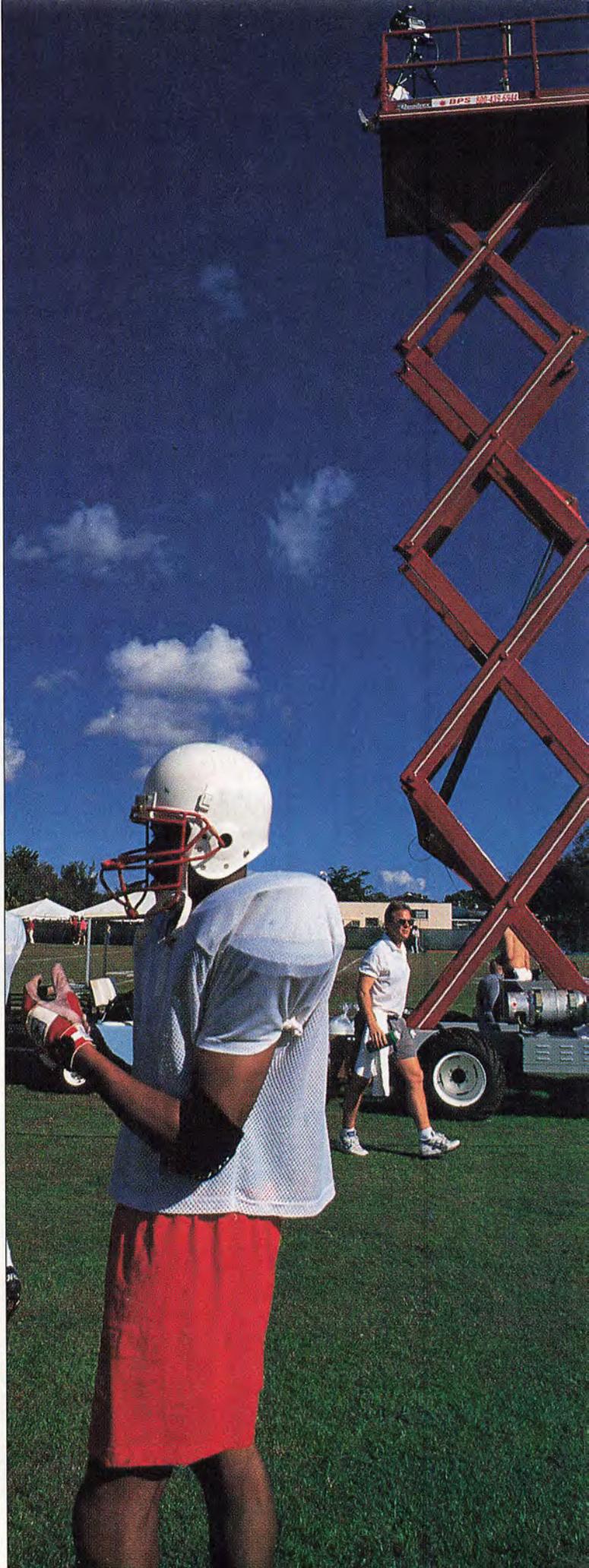
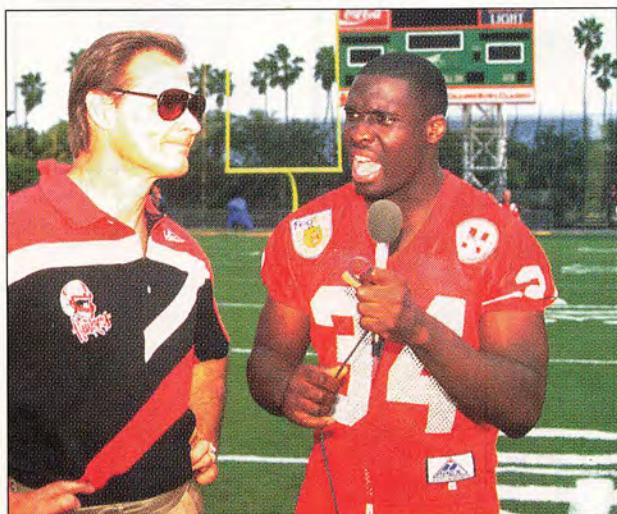


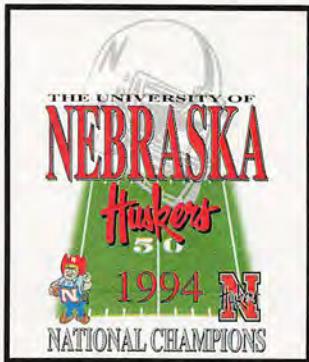
Practice had its lighter moments such as when Tom Osborne had to look the other way as a player tried to sneak in late to practice. But Tommie Frazier and the Huskers were all business as they prepared for their national title showdown with Miami.



Scott B. Smith

There was time for role reversal as freshman Vershan Jackson does his best imitation of a reporter while interviewing strength coach Boyd Epley.

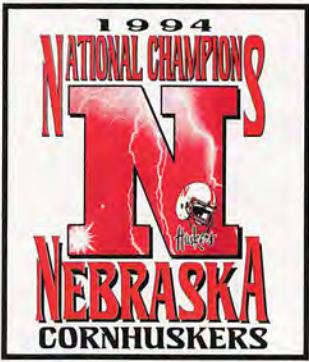




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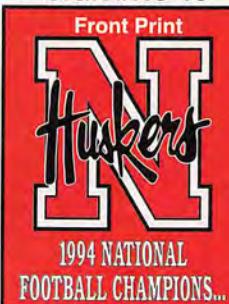
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From the Meadowlands of New Jersey in late August to the aging Orange Bowl stadium on a warm, humid New Year's night, the 1994 season was a long, strange trip to the national title

Nothing is for certain. "You never say never, and I know it drives the media crazy, but I learned to qualify what I say," Tom Osborne told reporters after practice one afternoon in early October.

"There are no absolutes."

Osborne's words conveyed a hint of optimism hardly justified given the situation. Junior quarterback Tommie Frazier, the player Nebraska couldn't lose if they were to contend for a national championship, had been sidelined by a blood clot problem that threatened his career, not to mention the remainder of the season.

The Cornhuskers, No. 4 in the Associated Press preseason rankings and No. 3 according to *USA Today/CNN*, had gotten off to a fast start under Frazier's capable direction.

They had rolled over West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic, their third appearance in the late-August

game. And they had scored a combined 161 points in victories against Texas Tech, UCLA and Pacific, the game that appeared to have been Frazier's last.

A month into the season, and Frazier was prominent in the Heisman Trophy watch. Nebraska also had moved up to the No. 1 ranking in the *USA Today/CNN* poll. Florida held its preseason No. 1 ranking in the AP poll, with the Cornhuskers checking in at No. 2.

The absence of Frazier, even if temporary, posed a problem for Osborne. Nebraska began the season with only two scholarship quarterbacks. The other, also a junior, was Brook Berringer.

Matt Turman, a walk-on from Wahoo, Neb., was third-string.

In order to practice, Osborne enlisted, among others, freshman student manager Adam Kucera to play quarterback on the scout team.

On the day Frazier's first blood clot was diagnosed, Nebraska defeated Pacific, 70-21. Osborne used 104 players in the game, including Kucera, who took four or five snaps

Cory Schlesinger proved to be one of Nebraska's most potent secret weapons.



Butkus Award finalist Ed Stewart dished out plenty of hits in 1994, finishing with a team high 96 tackles.

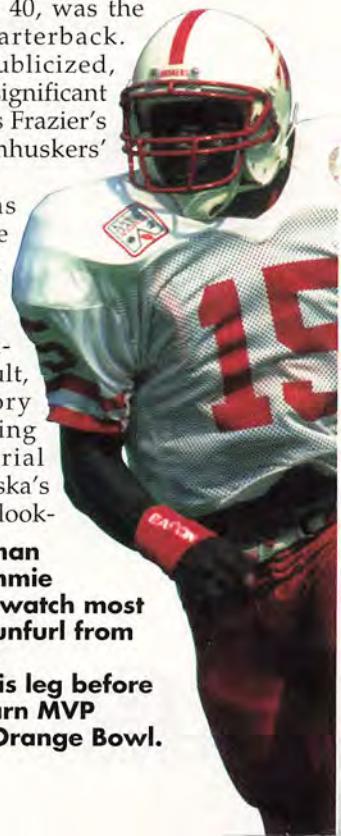
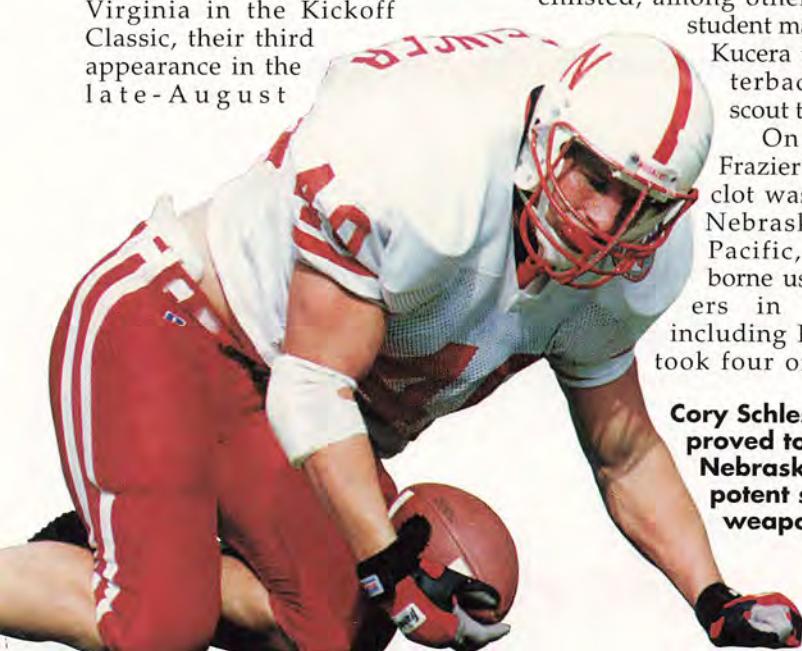
during the last five minutes.

With one game remaining on the non-conference schedule, Nebraska had lost Frazier, probably, and safety Mike Minter, positively, for the season. Minter had suffered a torn cruciate ligament at Texas Tech.

Minter, the fastest player on the team in the 40, was the defensive quarterback. Though less publicized, his loss was as significant to the defense as Frazier's was to the Cornhuskers' option offense.

That was never more apparent than during the final non-conference game, an unexpectedly difficult, 42-32 victory against Wyoming at Memorial Stadium. Nebraska's secondary, still look-

An early Heisman candidate, Tommie Frazier had to watch most of the season unfurl from the bench with bloodclots in his leg before returning to earn MVP honors in the Orange Bowl.



BUSINESS

ing for stability and without much pressure up-front, was torched for 344 passing yards by the Cowboys.

In the aftermath, the Cornhuskers dropped to No. 2 in the USA Today/CNN rankings. They also were confronted with more adversity at quarterback when it was determined that Berringer had played the second half with a partially collapsed lung.

Berringer recovered sufficiently to start the Big Eight opener against Oklahoma State, but the lung began

to collapse again, and he was replaced by Turman, who directed three touchdown drives in the second half of a 32-3 victory.

Nebraska was 6-0. But the uncertainty at quarterback had caused the AP voters to drop the Cornhuskers to No. 3 in the rankings as they prepared to play Kansas State.

The pivotal game of Nebraska's season was perhaps the one in Manhattan, Kan., on Oct. 15. The game, televised by ABC with a late-morning kickoff, pitted Nebraska and Kansas State, which was ranked 11th or 16th, depending on the poll consulted. And an overflow crowd of 42,817 was on hand at KSU Stadium.

The Wildcats, who last defeated Nebraska in 1968, believed they could end the streak. Though Berringer was cleared to play, Turman started.

Relying on a conservative offense directed by Turman for much of the first half, along with the tough, inside running of I-back Lawrence Phillips and an aggressive defense, the Cornhuskers left Manhattan 17-6 winners.

Despite a severely sprained thumb, Phillips ran for 117 yards.

Phillips had reached 1,000 rushing yards with a 221-yard effort against Oklahoma State. Mike Rozier, who rushed for a single-season record 2,148 yards in 1983, didn't reach 1,000 until Nebraska's seventh game.

But with the Kansas State game, Nebraska went away from the option because of its quarterback problems, and rushing yards became more

Quarterback Brook Berringer proved capable of leading the Huskers to the Big Eight title and beyond. But operating behind what many are considering the best offensive line in collegiate history didn't hurt.

One of the most underrated players in the nation, cornerback Barron Miles became Nebraska's first two-time first-team All-Big Eight cornerback since Bruce Pickens in 1989-90.

difficult to come by for Phillips. Even so, the sophomore from West Covina, Calif., gained 1,722 yards for the season, the second-highest total in school history. But his accomplishment seemed to be obscured not only by the Cornhuskers' quarterback situation but also by the fact that Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam played in the same conference.

Berringer, protected by a flak jacket, was able to start the rest of the season, leading Nebraska to a fourth consecutive Big Eight title and earning second-team all-conference honors. As Berringer gained confidence, and as he added another dimension to the offense with his passing, Cornhusker fans breathed more easily.

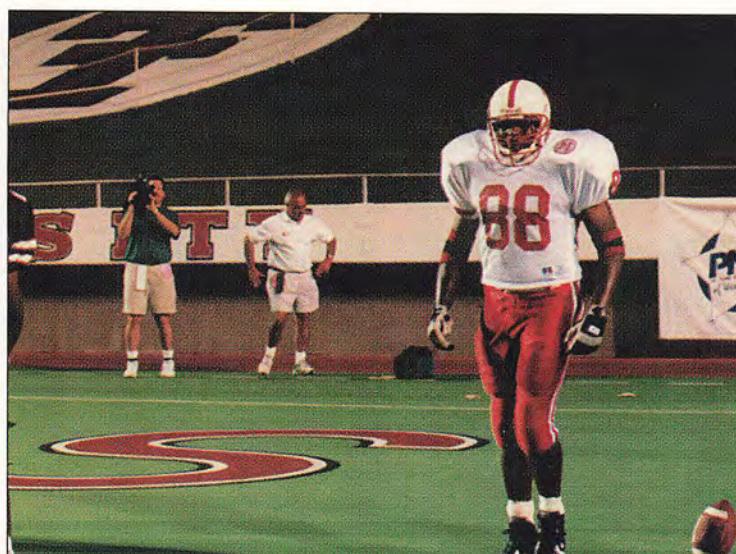
Berringer's finest hour, and the game that boosted Nebraska to No. 1 in the AP poll, was against Colorado. The Buffaloes came to Lincoln, for the 200th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium, undefeated and ranked No. 2. The Cornhuskers were No. 3.

Nebraska took a 17-0 halftime

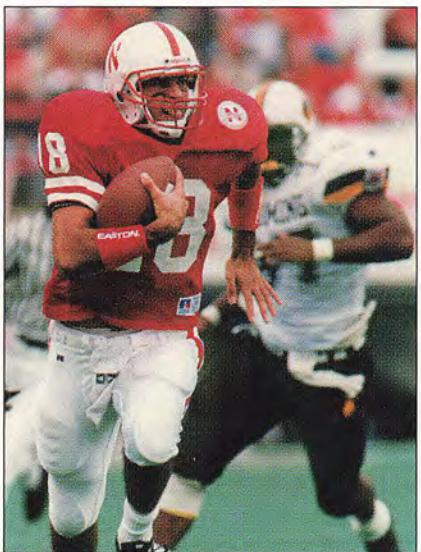




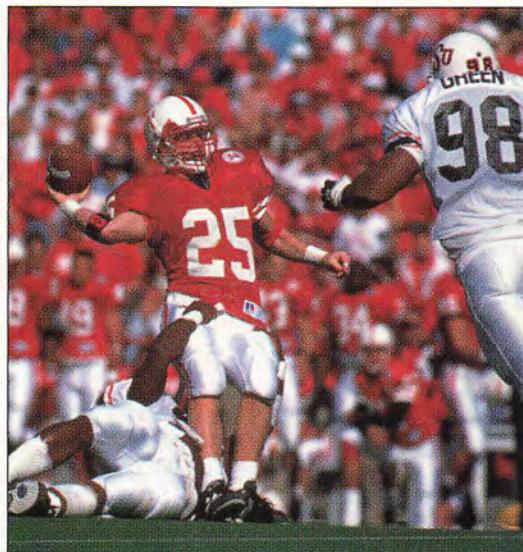
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WEST VIRGINIA 0



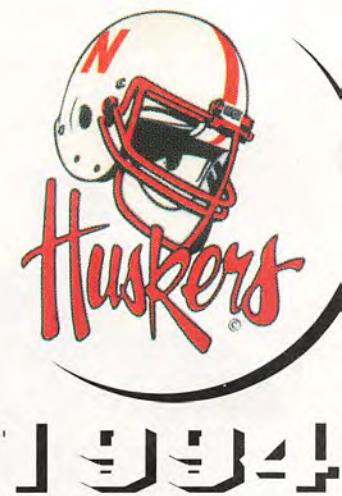
NEBRASKA 42
TEXAS TECH 16



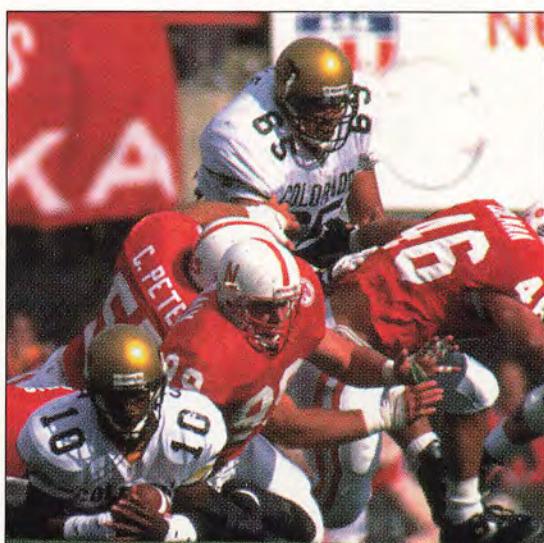
NEBRASKA 42
WYOMING 32



NEBRASKA 32
OKLAHOMA STATE 3



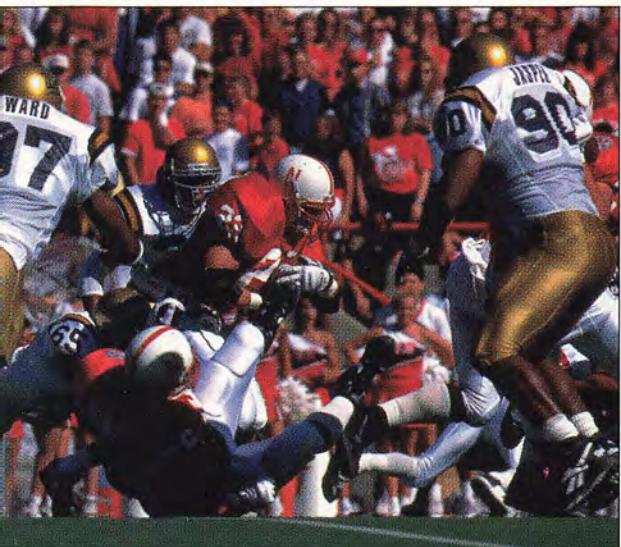
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NEBRASKA 24
COLORADO 7



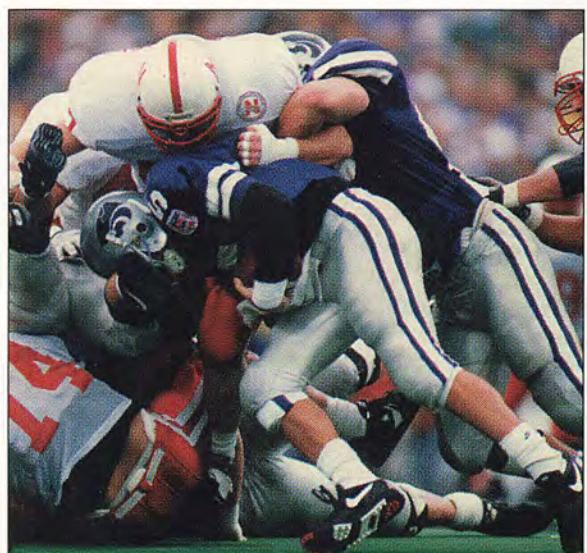
NEBRASKA 45
KANSAS 17



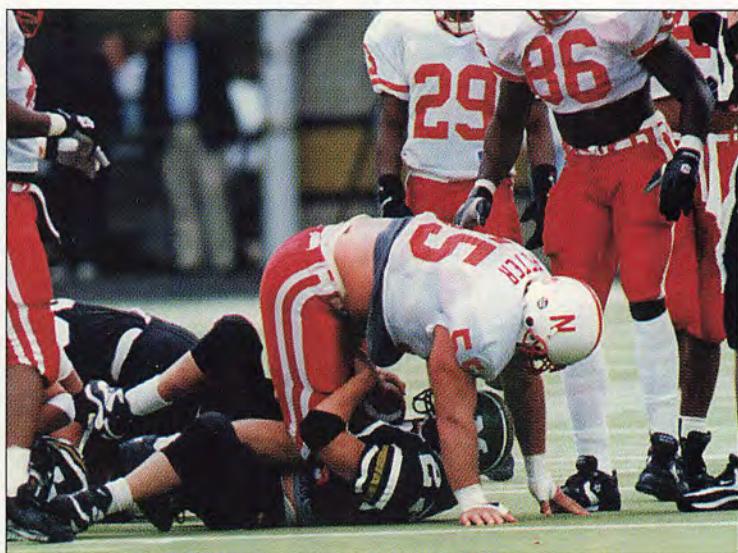
NEBRASKA 49
UCLA 21



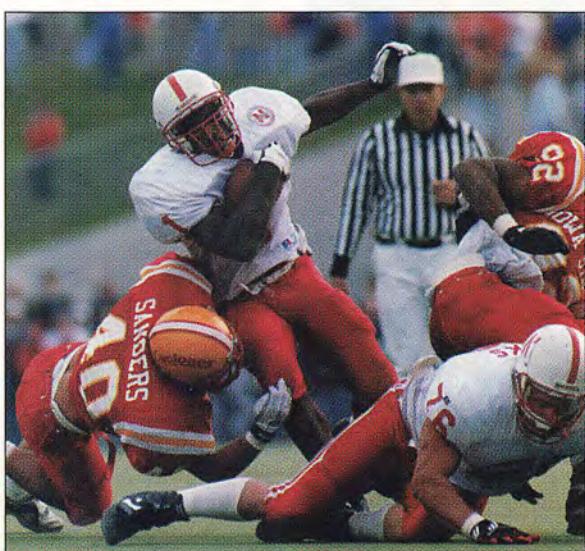
NEBRASKA 70
PACIFIC 21



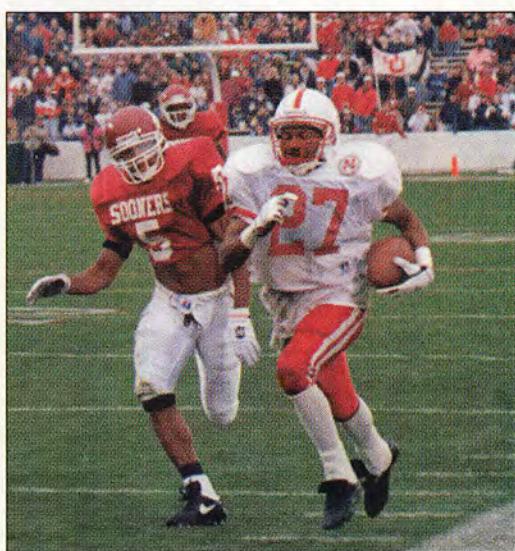
NEBRASKA 17
KANSAS STATE 6



NEBRASKA 42
MISSOURI 7



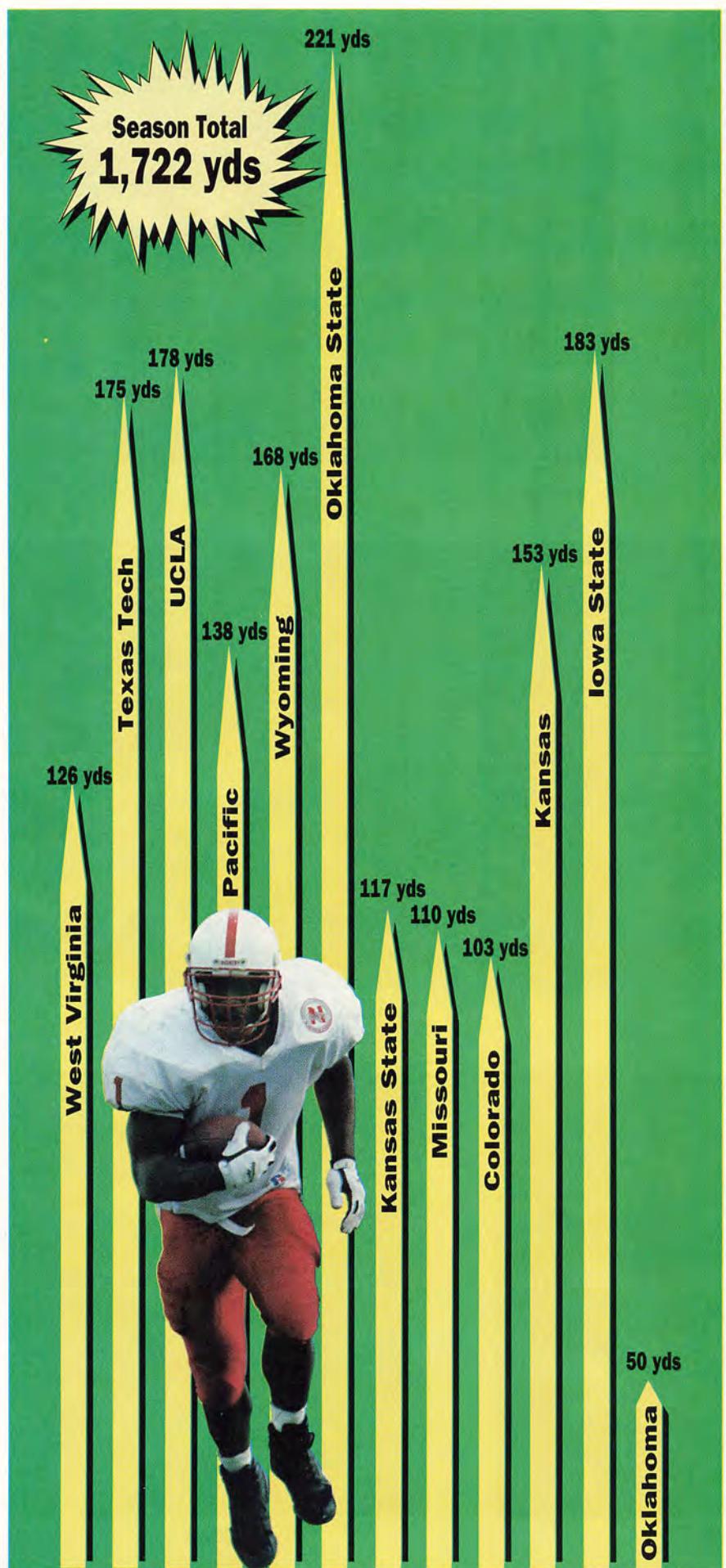
NEBRASKA 28
IOWA STATE 12



NEBRASKA 13
OKLAHOMA 3



S
ONS



lead, then went conservative the rest of the way to hand Colorado its only loss of the season, 24-7. Berringer completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and one touchdown, to tight end Eric Alford, who caught four other passes on the afternoon. Mark Gilman, another tight end, had four receptions. Colorado never adjusted successfully.

Berringer's best statistical performance came the next week against Kansas, when he completed 13 of 18 passes for 267 yards and two scores. Inexplicably, despite a Penn State victory against Indiana, Nebraska moved ahead of the Nittany Lions in the *USA Today/CNN* poll to No. 1, laying the groundwork for New Year's night.

Despite some offensive problems against Iowa State and Oklahoma, the Cornhuskers closed out their second consecutive undefeated regular season.

Because the NCAA denied Frazier's petition for a hardship season, and with clearance from doctors to go off blood thinners and play, Frazier was included on the travel roster for the Oklahoma game. Osborne said he would use Frazier only if something were to happen to Berringer, who seemed to be looking over his shoulder during a lackluster first half against the Sooners.

But Berringer settled down in the second half, and Frazier was nothing more than a spectator.

The uncertainty at quarterback was offset by stability in an offensive line regarded as the best in school history and a 4-3 defense that had closed ranks following Minter's loss and kept opposing offenses at bay. Nebraska allowed only 55 points, total, in Big Eight play.

Tony Veland, a converted quarterback, stepped up at free safety, as did Eric Stokes. Kareem Moss made a successful transition from cornerback to strong safety. Barron Miles and Tyrone Williams were able to provide man-to-man coverage, so essential to Nebraska's 4-3 base alignment.

At linebacker, Phil Ellis and Doug Colman held strong in the middle, with Ed Stewart, a finalist for the Butkus Award, and Troy Dumas flanking them. Dwayne Harris, Donta Jones, Grant Wistrom and Jared Tomich rotated at outside linebacker, with Christian Peter and Terry Connealy being spelled by, among others, Jason Pesterfield in the defensive interior.

The offensive interior of Zach

Wiegert, Brenden Stai, Aaron Graham, Joel Wilks and Rob Zatechka probably received more attention than any group of Cornhusker linemen ever. They were featured in *Sports Illustrated* late in the season. They were celebrities in their own right.

With Berringer's passing, Nebraska's receivers were able to do more than block. Senior Abdul Muhammad, who had considered redshirting, was the busiest, with 23 catches for 360 yards and two scores.

But Berringer also utilized Brenden Holbein and Reggie Baul as well as tight ends Alford and Gilman. Matt Shaw completed his career without catching a pass. He was, however, invaluable as a blocker, helping Nebraska again lead the nation in rushing.

Phillips handled most of the ball-carrying, backed up by Damon Benning and Clinton Childs. But fullback Cory Schlesinger averaged

Senior Abdul Muhammad was a busy man this year, catching 23 balls for 360 yards and two touchdowns.



7.2 yards per carry and scored four touchdowns, foreshadowing what he would do against Miami in the Orange Bowl game.

In addition, Darin Erstad and Tom Sieler gave the Cornhuskers a solid kicking game. When Nebraska headed for Miami to play the Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl, Osborne was right in saying that there was never a game in which the Cornhuskers were in great jeopardy of losing at the end.

The Orange Bowl game seemed a microcosm of the season as far as the quarterbacks were concerned. Frazier started but was replaced in the second quarter by Berringer, who shook Nebraska out of its offensive lethargy by throwing a touch-

down pass to Gilman.

When Berringer had problems in the third quarter, Frazier returned and, behind an offensive line that had pounded Miami's defense into weariness, led Nebraska to victory.

Frazier was chosen Nebraska's outstanding player of the game. But Berringer played an equally important role. That's how it was for the Cornhuskers — a team effort.

To quote from the song Rainbow Connection: "Why are there so many songs about rainbows and what's on the other side? Rainbows are visions, they're only illusions, and rainbows have nothing to hide."

Nebraska reached the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in 1994.

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1994


**HUSKER
FOOTBALL**
GAME 1

August 28, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	3	21	0	7	31
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0

Team Statistics

Nebraska	W. Virginia
368 Net Yards Rushing	8
100 Net Yards Passing	81
33:52 Time of Possession	26:08



Chris Faylor

GAME 2

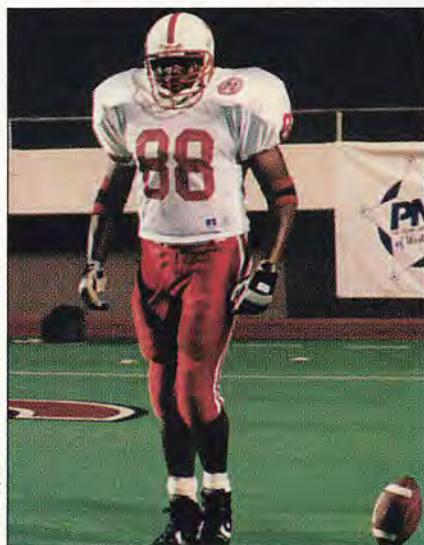
September 8, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	7	7	14	14	42
Texas Tech	0	3	6	7	16

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Texas Tech
524 Net Yards Rushing	147
88 Net Yards Passing	150
33:50 Time of Possession	26:10



Ian Holperin

Off and Running**Nebraska 31, West Virginia 0**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Perhaps it was a sign of the season to come. The Nebraska defense held the Mountaineers to just 89 yards of total offense, and the offense tallied more than enough points in earning a 31-0 win in the first of 12 regular season games the Huskers would play during the 1994 season.

The game, televised nationally by ABC, had required the Huskers to begin preseason practices early, increasing the length of an already long season. But the Huskers held up well.

The preseason No. 4 team according to the Associated Press, the Huskers made short work of West Virginia, which, like Nebraska, was coming off an 11-0 regular season record in 1993.

Tommie Frazier started the game and played all the way, with his

Tommie Frazier let the world know what he thought Nebraska should be ranked as he ran in one of his three scores.

sights set on a full season and, possibly, a Heisman Trophy. The junior quarterback could not have imagined that he would play just three more games, after blood clots were discovered in his leg. Frazier completed 8 of 16 passes for 100 yards and was named the Classic's MVP.

When the team voted to play the game in the summer, Frazier was one of the players who had not initially warmed to the idea. But with his performance in the Classic, the media quickly jumped onto Frazier's bandwagon and pronounced him the early Player of the Year.

The Nebraska ground game got going early and often, as sophomore Lawrence Phillips carried the ball 24 times for 125 yards. Frazier, who ran 12 times for 130 yards, scored three touchdowns.

The Black Shirt defense excelled, holding the Mountaineers to just eight yards rushing. West Virginia was forced to go through the air, but had little success, managing only 81 yards. ■

Rolling on the Plains**Nebraska 42, Texas Tech 16**

LUBBOCK, Texas — The Huskers took their act and No. 2 ranking to the plains of West Texas for the young season's second game. Again they emerged victorious, rolling to a 42-16 victory over the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. Only 32,768 turned out for the televised (ESPN) game.

It was slow going for the Huskers in the first half as the Red Raiders played them close and went into the locker room at halftime trailing, 14-3. But the Nebraska offense got going after intermission, grinding out 524 yards rushing for the game. The Husker defense continued its stingy ways as Nebraska gradually overpowered the game and outmanned the Red Raiders.

On the game's sixth play from scrimmage, it looked like it might be a rout as Tommie Frazier scored

By the time tight end Eric Alford (88) caught the first touchdown of his career in the fourth quarter, the game's outcome had been decided.

from 58 yards out. On third-and-one from the NU 42, Frazier ran to his right and faked a pitch to Lawrence Phillips before turning upfield and outracing the Tech defenders for the first of his two touchdowns.

Phillips again was a workhorse, carrying 19 times for 175 yards. Frazier, who tied Turner Gill for second place on the Huskers' career rushing list for quarterbacks, added 84 yards on the ground, as did fullback Cory Schlesinger. Back-up I-back Clinton Childs was good for 59 yards on 10 carries and a score.

Nebraska suffered a setback, losing their No. 1 free safety, Mike Minter, to an injury late in the third quarter. Senior safety Sedric Collins had quit after the Kickoff Classic, so added pressure was suddenly put on the Husker secondary to pick up the pieces and perform.

Playing in his first game since a preseason suspension, junior corner Tyrone Williams collected seven tackles, second-most on the team. ■

GAME 3

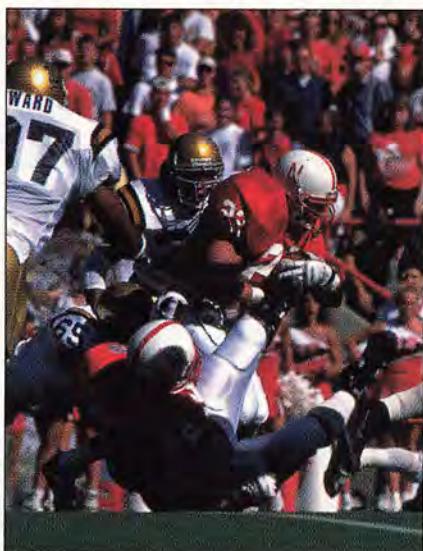
September 17, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	12	16	7	14	49
UCLA	0	7	7	7	21

Team Statistics

Nebraska	UCLA
484 Net Yards Rushing	129
285 Net Yards Passing	71
32:05 Time of Possession	27:55



Robert Berry

GAME 4

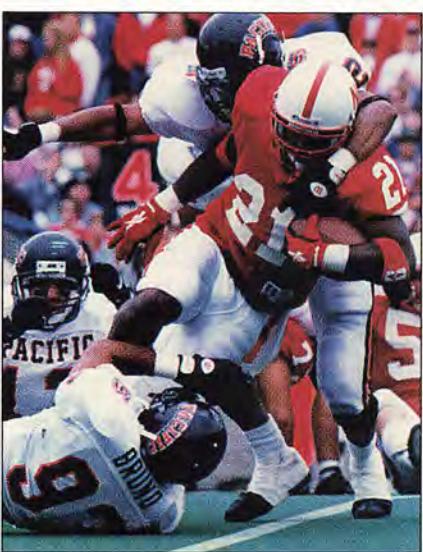
September 24, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	28	21	14	7	70
Pacific	0	0	14	7	21

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Pacific
510 Net Yards Rushing	84
189 Net Yards Passing	290
31:38 Time of Possession	28:22



Bob Berry

Burying the Bruins**Nebraska 49, UCLA 21**

LINCOLN, Neb. — The less said, the better. Perhaps UCLA football players should have accepted last season's 14-13 loss to Nebraska in California.

After talking the week before this year's game, the Bruins had talked about luck and that there would be none to go around this time. How true that proved to be as Nebraska slapped the Bruins with a convincing 49-21 win before another sellout at Memorial Stadium and an ABC Television national audience.

The Husker offense gained 555 yards, including 484 yards rushing. That, despite using nearly 100 players.

On paper it looked as if the Bruins would be the first team to give Nebraska its most significant non-conference challenge. But UCLA

UCLA had no answer for Jeff Makovicka (22) and Nebraska's running game, which racked up 484 yards on the ground.

fell much as Texas Tech had in Week Two.

"They are far and away the most difficult offense we face," said UCLA Head Coach Terry Donahue. "No one is nearly as difficult to defend when they have good players in their offense as they do now."

Statistically, it wasn't one of Tommie Frazier's better games, as he rushed for only 29 yards and was 5-of-11 for 59 yards passing. But he was able to rush for one score and pass for two others.

The Bruins were able to get some offensive production, finishing with 414 yards, including 285 passing. Senior signal-caller Warren Cook, without All-America wide receiver J.J. Stokes to throw to because of injury, still completed 15 of 28 passes for 217 yards and a touchdown. But two passes were intercepted.

Nebraska led, 12-0, after the first quarter and held a 28-7 lead at half-time. Lawrence Phillips was a force, gaining 178 yards on 19 carries. ■

Poor Pacific**Nebraska 70, Pacific 21**

LINCOLN, Neb. — Utah State backed out of Nebraska's schedule, and so the Huskers needed a fill-in. Pacific, the best team available on short notice, looked forward to a nice payout of \$425,000 in exchange for the drubbing they certainly would endure.

Sure enough, they got both.

"We got it over with," said Tom Osborne, who understandably had been sensitive about the match-up the week leading up the game. "That's what we tried to do."

Luckily, no one was hurt, save for Barron Miles, who was on the sideline in the second half with a knee injury. Pacific's junior defensive back, Ray Stokes, had to be helped from the field three times, and Tiger strong safety Jeff Russell was worn out after making 15 tackles, 11 of which were unassisted.

Pacific was never able to rebound from a first half that saw Nebraska score 49 unanswered points.

Tommie Frazier played just the first two series of the game because of a thigh bruise, and other first-teamers were pulled as early as the first quarter. All-America candidate Zach Wiegert played only three series, all of which resulted in touchdowns.

"You hate to have the score 35 or 42 to nothing and get a guy like Zach Wiegert hurt for nothing," Osborne said. A total of 111 Huskers dressed, and 104 of them played. Sixteen carried the ball, 11 caught passes, and nine scored touchdowns.

Nebraska's first seven possessions resulted in touchdowns, and the Huskers amassed 699 total yards of offense, including 510 rushing, most behind reserve linemen. Lawrence Phillips had his third straight 110-plus-yard game, getting 138 on only nine carries.

And, more importantly, backup quarterback Brook Berringer saw action, with 8-of-15 passing for 120 yards and three touchdowns. ■

1994

HUSKER
FOOTBALL

GAME 5

October 1, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	14	21	7	42
Wyoming	14	7	3	8	32

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Wyoming
322 Net Yards Rushing	36
131 Net Yards Passing	322
34:20 Time of Possession	25:40



Bob Berry

GAME 6

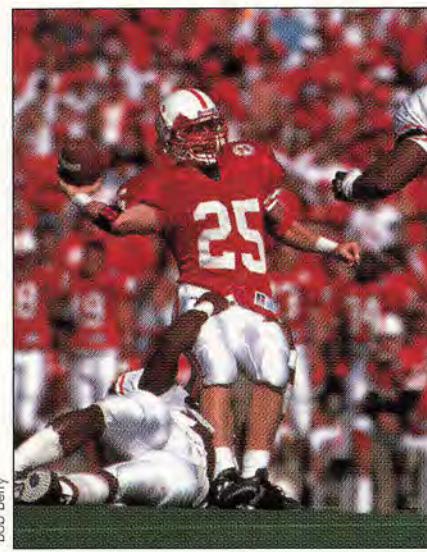
October 8, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	9	16	7	32
Oklahoma State	3	0	0	0	3

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Okl. St.
372 Net Yards Rushing	40
103 Net Yards Passing	96
36:55 Time of Possession	23:05



Bob Berry

Time for a Wake-Up

Nebraska 42, Wyoming 32

LINCOLN, Neb. — The "wake-up call" so often talked of in sports came sometime during halftime of the Wyoming game in the Nebraska locker room. The Huskers still had a fight on their hands, but had just enough to turn back Wyoming, 42-32. The win kept Nebraska unbeaten at 5-0 and kept its national title hopes alive.

To have scored 42 points and still have to fight to win would have come as a surprise. The Cowboys, heavy underdogs, led the Huskers — No. 1 in the *USA Today/CNN* coaches poll and No. 2 according to the AP — by a 14-0 score after one quarter and went into the intermission up, 21-14.

Nebraska erupted for 21 points in the third, but still it took a fumble recovery by the Black Shirts with 5:22 left for the Huskers to seal the

Brook Berringer (18) rose to the challenge of filling in for Tommie Frazier, completing 15 of 22 passes for 131 yards.

game. Damon Benning recovered the ball at the Wyoming 8, and Lawrence Phillips' touchdown run gave Nebraska the win.

With Tommie Frazier watching from the sideline following therapy for blood clots, Brook Berringer took over and responded with a 15-of-22 performance for 131 yards. He scored three touchdowns, while rushing for 64 yards on 12 attempts.

Early in the third quarter, after Nebraska had taken the lead, 28-21, Berringer ran 11 yards on the option to score the third of his scores.

"I thought when it was 35-21, we'd take it from there, and we didn't," Osborne said. Even though the offense picked up the tempo in the second half, the Cornhuskers continued to have problems. "Defensively, we let them hold the ball too long," Osborne said.

"This game was good for us," said Husker outside linebacker Dwayne Harris. "It was an eye-opener." ■

Smokin'

Nebraska 32, Oklahoma State 3

LINCOLN, Neb. — Week Six of the season brought another group of Cowboys to town, but the Huskers didn't have near the shoot-out they had against the Pokes of Wyoming.

The Huskers rolled, 32-3, despite losing Brook Berringer in his second game after replacing the injured Tommie Frazier. Berringer reinjured the lung that was partially collapsed in the Wyoming game. After going 10-of-15 for 75 yards, he was replaced by walk-on Matt Turman in the second half.

I-back Lawrence Phillips averaged nearly 7 yards a carry as he gained 221 yards on 33 carries. It marked the sixth-straight game the talented sophomore had gained more than 100 yards.

Damon Benning and Clinton Childs, backup I-backs, combined to rush for 87 yards on 13 carries.

A little luck helped holder Jon Vedral (25) connect with kicker Darin Erstad in the end zone after a botched two-point try.

Although the Huskers led by only 9-3 at halftime, it was enough.

The vaunted Black Shirt defense shone, allowing only 136 yards total offense. When Berringer went down, defensive coordinator Charlie McBride rallied his troops. The Black Shirts responded.

"We were hungry," said defensive tackle Christian Peter, who made eight tackles, including one quarterback sack. "We didn't want to let those guys do anything on us."

"We came out smoking. It boosted our confidence. We know now we can shut people down."

OSU's offensive production included only 40 yards rushing. "If we can't run the ball some, it is awful difficult on us," Cowboys Head Coach Pat Jones said.

Turman directed Nebraska to three touchdowns in the second half. He would be called on to lead a talented supporting cast into Manhattan, Kan., the following week for an October 15 matchup. ■



SEASON IN REVIEW

GAME 7

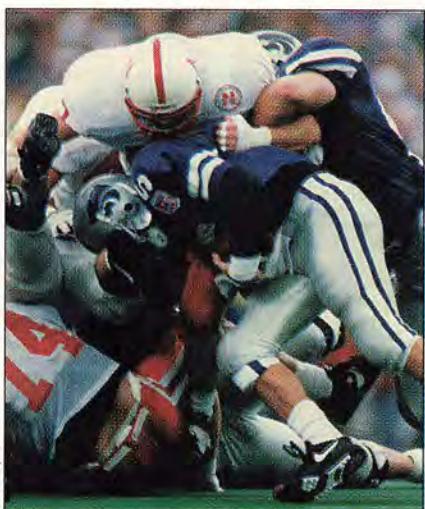
October 15, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	7	0	0	10	17
Kansas State	0	6	0	0	6

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Kansas St.
210	Net Yards Rushing .7
52	Net Yards Passing 249
31:26	Time of Possession 28:34



Jeff Taylor

May(Be) Next Year

Nebraska 17, Kansas State 6

Manhattan, Kan. — The Kansas State Wildcats entered the game with plenty of confidence and averaging nearly 350 yards of offense and 30 points per game.

Kansas State had not beaten Nebraska since 1968, but many in the state believed this would be the Wildcats' year, ending a quarter-century of frustration.

So much for theory. Before 42,817 fans at KSU Stadium and a regional television audience, K-State, as Husker linebacker Ed Stewart had pointed out, turned out to be, after all was said and done, K-State.

Quarterback Chad May, an NFL prospect, connected on 22 of 48 passes for 249 yards. But the offense rushed for minus-7 yards, and the Wildcats got into the endzone only once, on a 29-yard May touchdown

Chad May (5) had trouble standing up to the Husker rush, which sacked him six times.

pass to Mitch Running just seconds into the second quarter.

Nebraska's secondary coach, George Darlington, had nothing but praise for a Nebraska defense that had been unjustly maligned by the press the week before.

"We've got people who can play with anybody."

Mounting its best pass rush of the season, the Black Shirts showed blitz a lot, even when it wasn't blitzing, and mixed up coverages in the secondary.

The Huskers sacked May six times for 53 yards in losses. Behind a line that averaged 296 pounds per man, May had been sacked only seven times in their first four games.

Nebraska's offense stayed basic, operating behind sophomore walk-on quarterback Matt Turman. Lawrence Phillips gained 117 yards and the first touchdown in the first quarter. Fullback John Makovicka got the second early in the fourth. ■

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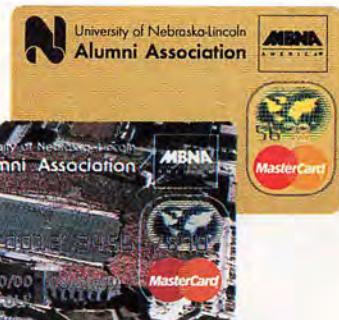
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1994


**HUSKER
FOOTBALL**
GAME 8

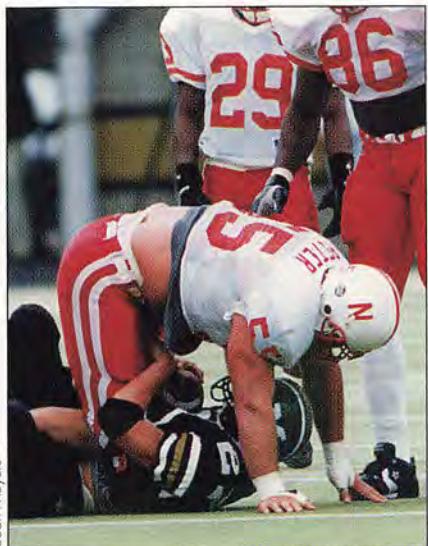
October 22, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	14	14	14	42
Missouri	0	0	0	7	7

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Missouri
330	Net Yards Rushing
152	Net Yards Passing
31:31	Time of Possession
28:29	



Sean Meyers

GAME 9

October 29, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	7	10	7	0	24
Colorado	0	0	7	0	7

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Colorado
203	Net Yards Rushing
142	Net Yards Passing
38:24	Time of Possession
21:36	



Bob Berry

It's Showtime!**Nebraska 42, Missouri 7**

COLUMBIA, Mo. — It took the Huskers, coming off an emotional win over Kansas State, a quarter to get on track in Columbia, but they struck for 14 points in each of the last three quarters, thrashing Missouri, 42-7.

With the win, the Huskers, ranked third by Associated Press voters, moved to 8-0 with the No. 2 Colorado Buffaloes standing in the way in Week Nine. There seemed to be no looking ahead to the much-anticipated showdown in Lincoln.

Defense and passing ruled the day for the Huskers, as the Black Shirts gave up just 198 yards of offense, including 48 on the ground. Brook Berringer, who emerged healthy after a 9-of-13 passing performance, tallied 152 yards with three touchdown strikes.

Missouri's Rahsetnu Jenkins,

By the Missouri game, the Nebraska defense had begun to get national recognition as one of the top units in the country.

Any Questions?**Nebraska 24, Colorado 7**

LINCOLN, Neb. — It was all set. Colorado had come to town for a matchup of unbeatens, No. 1 vs. No. 2. The 200th consecutive sellout crowd would be on hand at Memorial Stadium, to boot.

Nebraska responded, controlling from the start and dominating the Buffs in every respect.

The Husker defense practically shut down a Colorado offense, ranked second in the nation and averaging 502.9 yards per game.

The Buffaloes, ranked fourth in both scoring (40.3 points) and rushing offense (295.4 yards), were met straight-up by the Nebraska defense. Eventual Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam gained 134 yards on 22 carries, well below his average. Of those yards, 38 came during the first half.

The Buffaloes' hopes of remaining undefeated fell with quarterback Kordell Stewart (10) and his unusually bad performance in Lincoln.

who finished with 90 yards on eight catches, had all of Missouri's seven receptions in the first half. His eighth, a 34-yard Jeff Handy touchdown strike, came midway through the fourth quarter.

But by then Nebraska had a 28-0 lead.

Berringer showed against Missouri that he's ready for Colorado. "People are telling us we're not the same team without Tommie (Frazier). But that's not true. The only thing we miss is a little bit of elusiveness," said Husker split end Brenden Holbein.

But what they gained was Berringer's passing ability.

After a slow start, Berringer directed a 14-play, 92-yard drive that culminated in a 5-yard touchdown run by Lawrence Phillips early in the second quarter to get the Huskers on the board.

"I think today Brook showed us a lot," said Phillips, who gained 110 yards on 22 carries. "He's confident. The adjustment period is over." ■

For the third year in a row, quarterback Kordell Stewart had problems with the Black Shirts, as he completed only 12 of 28 passes for 150 yards.

The Huskers sacked Stewart three times and kept the pressure on from the opening series. He had nowhere to run, and often no one to throw to, though Michael Westbrook finished with six receptions for 80 yards.

Colorado finished with 314 yards, most of those coming in the second half. And the Buffs came up short on all 11 of their third-down plays and were 0-for-4 on fourth downs.

The Huskers' kicking game was solid, as Colorado began nine of its 13 possessions from its 20 or worse.

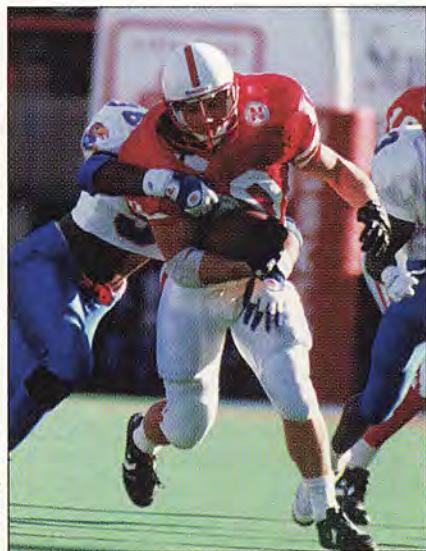
Nebraska's offense was effective and took control early, producing 17 points on its five first-half possessions. Tom Osborne's use of his tight ends surprised Colorado, as Mark Gilman caught four and Eric Alford caught five including one score. ■

GAME 10 November 5, 1994**Score By Quarters**

Nebraska	24	14	7	0	45
Kansas	3	7	0	7	17

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Kansas
336	Net Yards Rushing
267	Net Yards Passing
28:44	Time of Possession



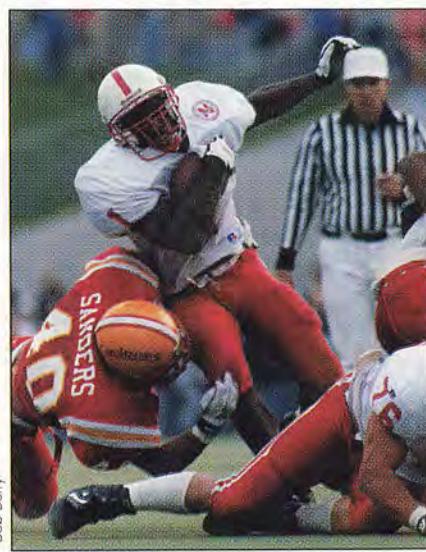
Bob Berry

GAME 11 November 12, 1994**Score By Quarters**

Nebraska	7	7	0	14	28
Iowa State	3	3	6	0	12

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Iowa St.
285	Net Yards Rushing
193	Net Yards Passing
33:35	Time of Possession



Bob Berry

Still Going

Nebraska 45, Kansas 17

LINCOLN, Neb. — Surely this year against Kansas, there would be no stopping Nebraska, rolling toward an unbeaten season and Tom Osborne's first national title.

In 1993, Nebraska stumbled against the Jayhawks, but still managed to escape Lawrence after Kansas missed on a two-point conversion try. But after defeating Colorado, the Huskers, including 25 seniors playing their last home game, would not slip up.

The Huskers moved to 10-0 with a 45-17 rout that was over early. Nebraska scored 24 points in the first quarter and had 38 by halftime.

The Jayhawks, in fact, were down, 10-0, by the time they had run three plays. The Black Shirts defense shone once again, allowing only 129 yards passing and 141 on the ground, despite 45 carries.

Quarterback Asheiki Preston was

Kansas' emphasis on stopping Nebraska from running didn't work.

pressured all game. "This is the best defense I've seen so far this year," he said. "They play good as a team and fly to the football."

Brook Berringer solidified his status as the new Husker quarterback, as he recorded the seventh-best passing performance in school history, with 13-of-18 passing for 267 yards and two touchdowns. Although Kansas had allowed an average of 229.1 passing yards per game, Nebraska had passed that total by halftime, with Berringer completing 8-of-10 for 249 yards.

Lawrence Phillips, who had 35 yards in the first half, got 118 yards on 10 carries in the third quarter and finished with 153 yards on 21 carries. His season rushing total mounted to 1,489 yards, his career total to 1,997 yards, 16th all-time at Nebraska.

Phillips earned the school record for consecutive 100-plus-yard games to start a season, with nine, after an NCAA ruling removed a 17-yard loss in the Colorado game. ■

11 and Counting

Nebraska 28, Iowa State 12

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State fans hoped to invoke the spirit of the Cyclones' 19-10 victory over Nebraska in 1992 to accomplish a seemingly impossible task.

The Cyclones were still without a win for the season after this year's match, but they seemed anything but hapless against the team ranked No. 1 in both the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN polls.

The Cyclones, as they had wanted, entered the fourth quarter close, down only 14-12. Less than three minutes into the fourth quarter, the Huskers increased their lead to 21-12 on a 6-yard touchdown run by Damon Benning. A 10-play, 60-yard touchdown drive ending with a 21-yard Lawrence Phillips touchdown run capped victory No. 11.

Despite three quarters of frustration and a fourth-quarter fumble

Lawrence Phillips' 183 rushing yards gave him 11 straight 100-yard-plus efforts.

that might have been costly, Phillips finished with 183 rushing yards and two touchdowns on a career-high 36 carries. He picked up 120 yards on nine carries in the final 8:54.

But the crucial turn of events, in ISU Head Coach Jim Walden's eyes, occurred less than a minute earlier. On third-and-13 from the Nebraska 32, Cyclone quarterback Todd Doxzon passed to Geoff Turner for what was signaled a touchdown.

But Iowa State was called for holding, before Doxzon had released the ball, and the score was nullified.

"Calling the touchdown back hurt us," Walden said. "We were running out of energy, and when you run out of energy against that team, they run over you. The best team won."

Brook Berringer again was solid, throwing for 193 yards and a touchdown on 11-of-18 passing. The passing yardage also put Berringer over 1,000 for the season making him the 19th quarterback in Cornhusker history to reach that level. ■

1994



HUSKER FOOTBALL

GAME 12

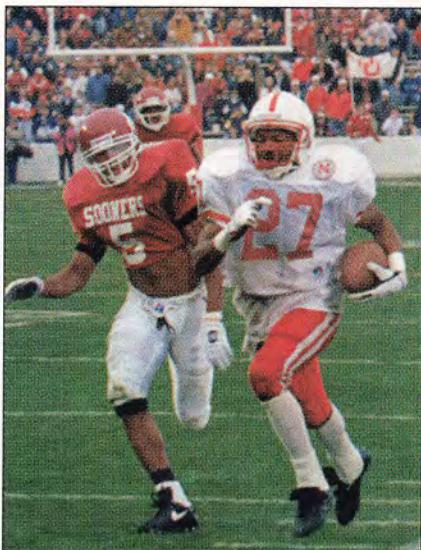
November 25, 1994

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	0	3	3	7	13
Oklahoma	0	3	0	0	3

Team Statistics

Nebraska	Oklahoma
179 Net Yards Rushing	138
166 Net Yards Passing	71
36:48 Time of Possession	23:12



Harry Lenz, Jr.

Defense Flavor of the Day

Nebraska 13, Oklahoma 3

NORMAN, Okla. — The Nebraska defense again proved that no matter how many points the offense was good for, they would do their part.

The Black Shirts yielded only a field goal, and the Husker offense came up with 13 to outdistance an Oklahoma team playing with emotion just days after Head Coach Gary Gibbs announced his resignation.

The largest home crowd in two years came looking for the upset, and they saw the Sooners only hold it close. Nebraska's defense, which after the Wyoming game allowed more than seven points only twice (17 against Kansas and 12 versus Iowa State), tried for the greatest differential possible.

"The story of the game was the two defenses and our kicking

When Oklahoma stacked the line, senior wingback Abdul Muhammad (27) burned them deep.

game," Tom Osborne said. In addition to a 46-yard field goal by Darin Erstad early in the second quarter and a 26-yarder by Tom Sieler midway through the third quarter, Erstad punted for a 47-yard average.

Erstad punted only once in the second half, however, as Nebraska wore down Oklahoma's defense.

"We were concerned about moving the ball on the ground because their tackles are outstanding and their linebackers really close on the ball," Osborne said.

The Huskers struggled offensively in the first half, with only 63 yards of offense, including 40 rushing, and a 1.9-yard average per play. Their 136 yards rushing was a season low.

Brook Berringer started slow but finished 13-of-23 for 166 yards. He scored the game's only touchdown in the third quarter, from one yard out to cap a 10-play, 82-yard drive highlighted by a 44-yard pass to Abdul Muhammad on third-and-10 from the Huskers 43. ■

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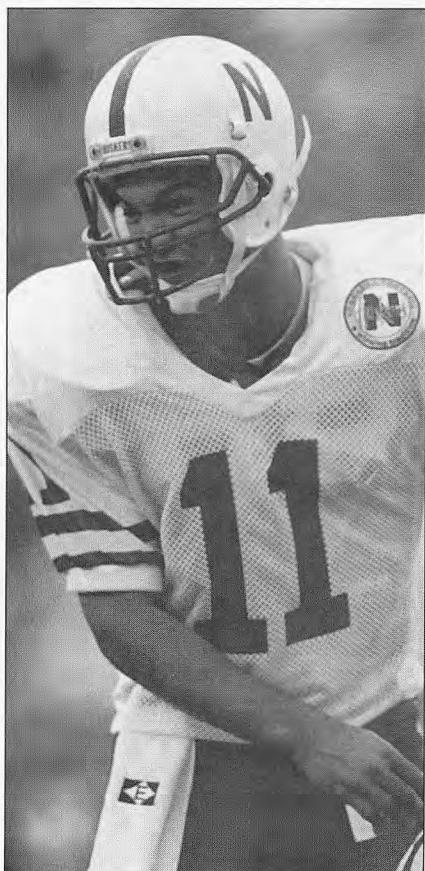
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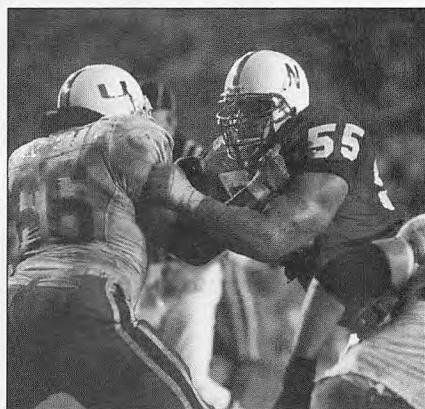


Jeff Taylor

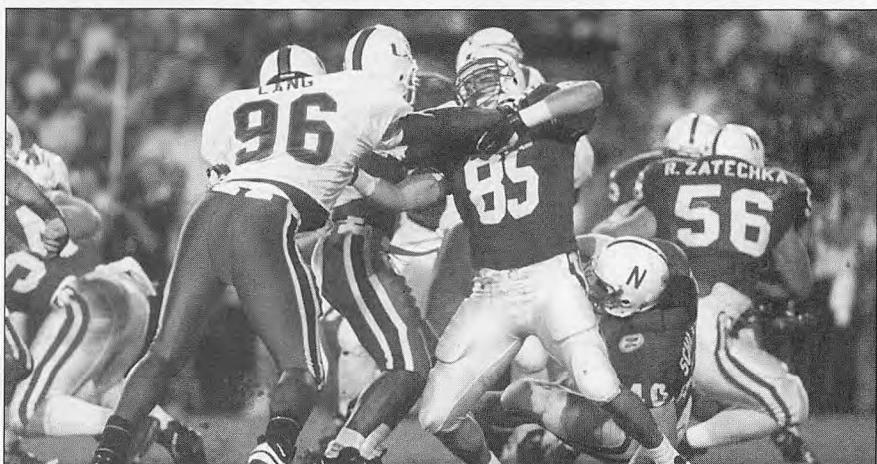


Bob Berry

Some of the best of the year includes Matt "the Turmanator" Turman (11), Christian Peter (55) and his "Peterbilt" tattoo, sandwich-eating Matt Shaw (85), and the Huskers' final scoring drive of the Orange Bowl.



Scott B. Smith



Scott B. Smith

The **BEST** And **WORST** Of **1994**

The season in which Tom Osborne earned his first national championship has more bests than worsts. And the best of all was Nebraska's 24-17 victory against Miami in the Orange Bowl game, as the Cornhuskers earned their first national title since 1971.

With that as a qualifier, and making no claim at being absolute, *Huskers Illustrated* offers its annual Best and Worst list for Nebraska's memorable 1994 football season.

What follows are some of the highlights and a lowlight or two, with the provision that you can submit your own nominations for these distinctions or, better yet, ones of your own creation.

Best (Or Worst) Tattoos

Christian Peter, Nebraska's junior defensive tackle, and his brother, Jason, a freshman defensive tackle, sport "Peterbilt" tattoos.

Christian and Jason arrived for practice one day with kneepads covering their biceps. "Jason had his head down," Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "I knew something was wrong."

McBride said he asked the brothers what was beneath the kneepads.

Jason: "A tattoo."

McBride: "A what?"

Jason: "A tattoo."

McBride: "Your mom is going to kill you, and me."

Worst Cornhusker To Ask About What Makes A Good Sandwich

Matt Shaw, Nebraska's senior tight end, weighed only 195 pounds

when he walked on as a freshman. During the summer before his sophomore year, when he redshirted, Shaw decided he needed to bulk up if he ever hoped to play for the Cornhuskers. "Either I gained weight or I got killed," he said.

To that end, he ate eight sandwiches a day, five days a week, that summer. By the start of fall camp, he had gained weight but developed an aversion to sandwiches.

By his estimation, it took the better part of two years before that aversion wore off. But it paid off.

Shaw, a first-team Academic All-American, played at 235 this season.

Most Frustrated Pass Receiver

Shaw temporarily disliked sandwiches. But he had nothing against catching passes, even though he hasn't had a single reception in three seasons of playing tight end.

He was, however, invaluable as a blocker, for the nation's best rushing offense in 1994.

Best Tough Guy Performance - Not

Near the end of the first half of Nebraska's 17-6 victory at Kansas State, Cornhusker I-back Lawrence Phillips was hit by the helmet of a Wildcat defender. Phillips' left thumb absorbed most of the impact.

At halftime, while his teammates made adjustments for the second half, Phillips was taken to a hospital for x-rays of the thumb.

After it was determined that there was no fracture, Phillips went back to KSU Stadium.

Midway through the third quarter, he returned to the game.

The thumb was swollen and painful, and Nebraska's running game was so conservative that Phillips ran mostly inside the tackles, meaning he absorbed a considerable pounding.

Even so, he finished with 117 rushing yards on 31 carries. He was a key to the Cornhusker victory.

Phillips claimed the effort was nothing out of the ordinary. "Tough guy? I don't know if I'm a tough guy. I don't consider myself a tough guy."

Best Performance At Quarterback By A Student Manager

Adam Kucera, a freshman from Lake Havasu, Ariz., walked on as a student manager after being told he was too small to play quarterback.

When Nebraska found itself short on quarterbacks, however, Kucera was pressed into duty with the scout team. His dedication to the team was

Lawrence Phillips didn't let a thumb injury sideline him for long against Kansas State.

Jeff Taylor





Bob Berry

rewarded near the end of the 70-21 victory against Pacific.

With about five minutes remaining, Kucera was sent into the game, to cheers of "Rudy, Rudy," a reference to the movie of the same name about a walk-on player at Notre Dame.

"I knew we could handle them," Kucera said of the Tigers from Stockton, Calif. "I thought I probably had a good chance (to play)."

As a member of the scout team, Kucera said, he was better prepared to run Pacific's plays than Nebraska's.

Most Committed Cornhusker

John Martin was a fifth-year senior outside linebacker from Wahoo, Neb. He walked on and, after playing for the junior varsity team as a freshman, contributed as a scout team player for the remainder of his career.

The only road trips Martin made were to bowl games, as a scout squad player. He says he was the only senior on the scout team this season.

But Martin never quit. His commitment and determination represents the best in Nebraska football.

Best Drive By Passing

The Cornhuskers trailed Wyoming, 21-7, late in the first half at Memorial Stadium when they took over at their own 36-yard line. Quarterback Brook Berringer needed only eight plays to cover the 64 yards to the end zone.

He completed seven consecutive passes, two to Lawrence Phillips, two to Abdul Muhammad and one each to Clester Johnson, Brendan Holbein and Reggie Baul. Then he ran the final 5 yards himself for the touchdown.

Berringer finished the game 15-of-

22 for 131 yards.

Best Drive, Period

There can be little dispute about this. With 6:28 remaining in the Orange Bowl game and the score tied at 17, Nebraska began at its own 42-yard line. On first down, I-back Lawrence Phillips battled to avoid a big loss and nearly got back to the line of scrimmage. Minus-1.

On second down, quarterback Tommie Frazier completed a 7-yard pass to split end Reggie Baul to set up a third-and-4 at the Cornhusker 48.

With time remaining under 5 minutes, Frazier ran an option against the weary Miami defense, gaining 25 yards and the first down at the Hurricane 27.

On first down from there, Phillips spun for 7 yards. On second down, he was held to no gain. On third-and-3, after taking a timeout, Frazier again ran an option, picking up 6 yards and the first down at the Miami 14.

On the next play, Frazier handed to fullback Cory Schlesinger, who

Nebraska's faithful extended the NCAA-record consecutive sellout mark at Memorial Stadium this year to 201 games.

ran 14 yards into the end zone, and into Cornhusker football history. Frazier knelt at the 28-yard line, as if in prayer for the national championship that the touchdown foreshadowed.

Worst Defensive Performance By The Cornhuskers

Wyoming scored 32 points and gained 380 yards against the Black Shirts, prompting defensive coordinator Charlie McBride to lament: "I've never seen so many guys falling down and tripping, zigging and zagging. If that wasn't basketball on grass, I don't know what is."

The Cowboys got 344 yards and three touchdowns by passing.

Best Cinematic Reference

After junior quarterback Brook Berringer suffered a partially collapsed lung twice, he was fitted with a special flak jacket. As a result, Berringer said, "I felt like Robo-Cop."

Newspaper Headline Writer's Delight (Best Last Name)

Sophomore walk-on Matt Turman was the man of the hour during the second half of the Cornhuskers' 32-3 victory against Oklahoma State as well as their 17-6 victory at Kansas State.

With Tommie Frazier sidelined

Nebraska's offensive line found it had an appetite for pancakes, both at the breakfast table and on the field in 1994.



with blood clot problems and Brook Berringer suffering from a partially collapsed lung, Turman stepped in to direct three second-half touchdown drives against the Cowboys, then he started and played the first half against Kansas State.

Turman, the first walk-on to start at quarterback for Nebraska since Travis Turner in 1985, earned the nickname "Turmanator." A headline in the *Lincoln Journal-Star* after the Oklahoma State game read: "NU shows de-Turman-ation."

Best Musical Score

You might have had difficulty finding the Alan Parsons Project album "Eye in the Sky" at Christmas time in Lincoln and Omaha. The instrumental opening cut on the album, "Sirius," provided the background to the opening sequence on the large video screens at Memorial Stadium. It became the musical theme of Nebraska's national championship season.

Best Of The Husker Hungry Pancake Award Club

Nebraska's offensive linemen amused themselves by establishing a "Pancake Award" for the most knockdown blocks in each game. The competition was spirited, and a point of pride. Tackle Zach Wiegert and guard Brenden Stai, for example, each was credited with 10 "pancakes" during a 13-3 victory against Oklahoma.

Wiegert, the Outland Award winner, and Stai were the first pair of offensive linemen from the same school to earn first-team All-America honors since USC's Don Mosebar and Bruce Matthews in 1982.

Wiegert graded at a perfect 2.0 during the Kansas game. Said Tom Osborne: "That maybe has happened sometime before in my 33 years here. But I can't remember anybody playing 65 or 70 plays and having a perfect grade at that level. Zach knocked a lot of people down and had a great game, one of the finest we've ever had an offensive lineman have."

Worst Place To Get A Ticket

Theoretically, anyway, that would be Memorial Stadium, which has now been sold out for an NCAA-record 201 consecutive games. The last time all the tickets weren't sold was — let's see — 1962, Bob Devaney's first season as head coach. He had a young assistant then named Tom Osborne. ■

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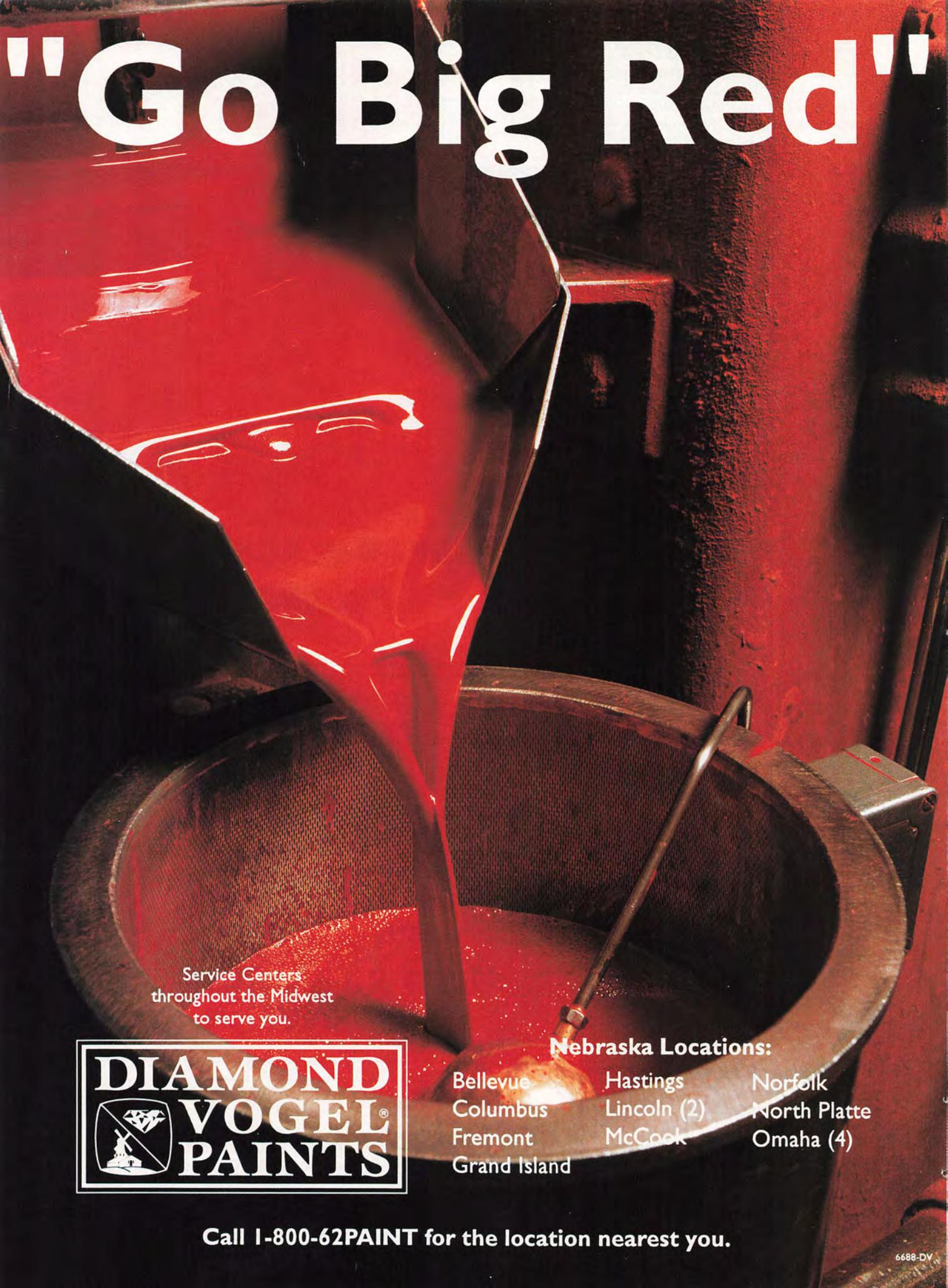
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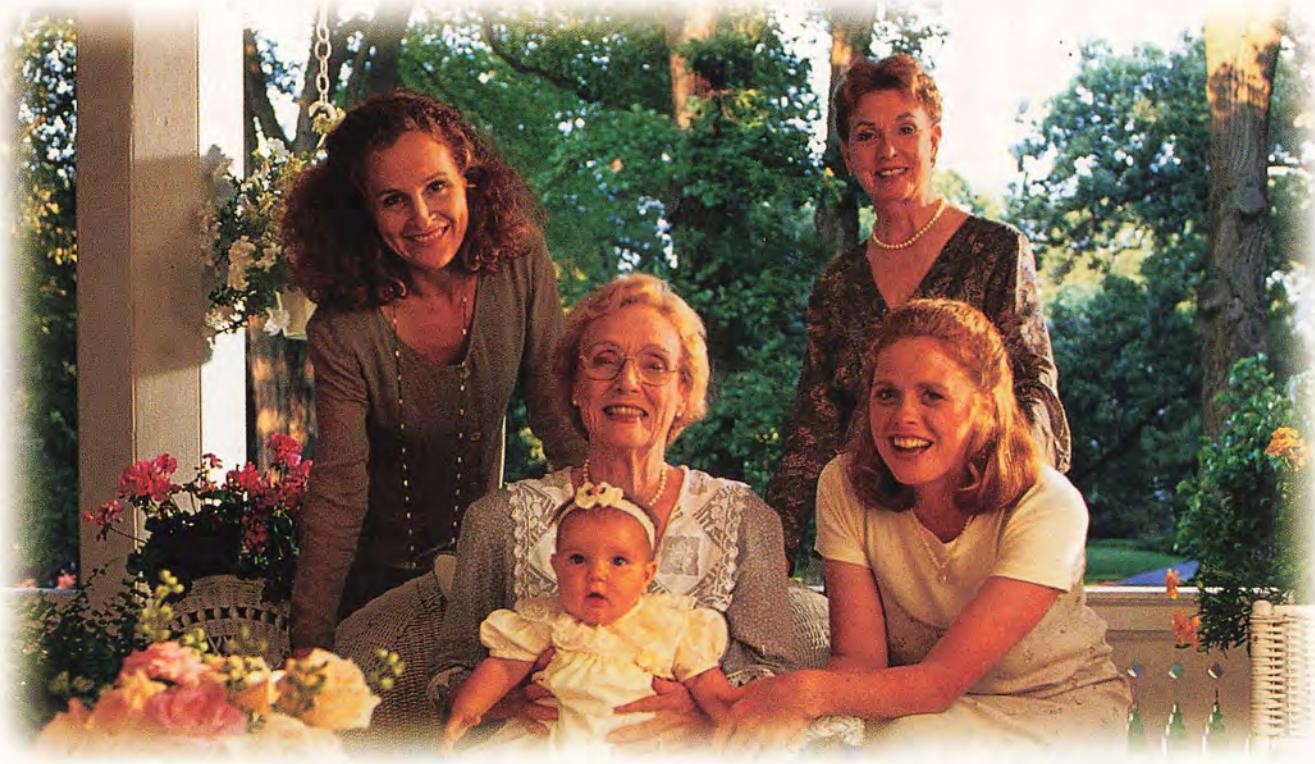
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FINAL 1994 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL STATISTICS

(13-0-0/7-0-0 in Big Eight, Conference Champions)

Date	Opponent	Site	Television	Attendance	Result	Gametime AP Rank
					NU/Opp	
Aug. 28	% West Virginia	Meadowlands, N.J.	ABC	58,233	W, 31-0	4/24
Sept. 8	Texas Tech	Lubbock, Texas	ESPN	32,768	W, 42-16	1/NA
Sept. 17	UCLA	Lincoln, Neb.	ABC	75,687	W, 49-21	2/13
Sept. 24	Pacific	Lincoln, Neb.		75,273	W, 70-21	2/NA
Oct. 1	Wyoming	Lincoln, Neb.		75,333	W, 42-32	2/NA
Oct. 8	Oklahoma State	Lincoln, Neb.		75,454	W, 32-3	2/NA
Oct. 15	Kansas State	Manhattan, Kan.	ABC	42,817	W, 17-6	2/NA
Oct. 22	Missouri	Columbia, Mo.		50,537	W, 42-7	3/NA
Oct. 29	Colorado	Lincoln, Neb.	ABC	76,131	W, 24-7	3/2
Nov. 5	Kansas	Lincoln, Neb.		75,543	W, 45-17	1/NA
Nov. 12	Iowa State	Ames, Iowa		45,186	W, 28-12	1/NA
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	Norman, Okla.	ABC	70,216	W, 13-3	1/NA
Jan. 1	& Miami	Miami, Fla. (Orange Bowl)	NBC	81,753	W, 24-17	1/3
% Kickoff Classic		& Orange Bowl				

FINAL 1994 TEAM STATISTICS

Do Not Include Orange Bowl

Team Stats	NU	OPP
First Downs	293	176
Rush	215	68
Pass	66	89
Penalty	12	19
Net Rushing Yards	4080	951
Rushing Attempts	687	401
Yards Gained	4356	1359
Yards Lost	276	408
Yards Per Rush	5.9	2.4
Yards Per Game	340.0	79.3
Net Passing Yards	1654	2155
Pass Attempts	210	364
Passes Completed	120	172
Passes Intercepted	7	17
Completion Percentage	.571	.473
Yards Per Pass Attempt	7.9	5.9
Yards Per Pass Comp.	13.8	12.5
Passing Yards Per Game	137.8	179.6
Net Yards	5734	3106
Total Plays	897	765
Plays Per Game	74.8	63.8
Yards Gained Per Play	6.4	4.1
Yards Gained Per Game	477.8	258.8
Kickoff Returns/Yards	25/571	35/636
Avg. Yards Per Return	22.8	18.2
Kickoff Returns Per Game	2.1	2.9
Punt Returns/Yards	49/419	24/69
Avg. Yards Per Return	8.6	2.9
Interception Returns	17	7
Return Yards	218	34
Avg. Per Game	1.4	0.6
Punts	50	88
Total Yards	2130	3645
Avg. Yards Per Punt	42.6	41.4
Fumbles/Lost	27/13	18/4
Penalties/Yards	76/670	60/475
Avg. Yards Per Pnly	8.8	7.9
Sacks By/Yds Lost	43/263	6/54

SCORE BY QUARTERS

1ST/AVG.	3RD/AVG.
NU: 95/7.9	NU: 103/8.6
OPP: 23/1.9	OPP: 43/3.6
2ND/AVG.	4TH/AVG.
NU: 136/11.3	NU: 101/8.4
OPP: 36/3.0	OPP: 43/3.6
TOTAL/AVG.	
NU: 435/36.3	
OPP: 145/12.1	

STATISTICAL HIGHS/LOWS

Nebraska	High	Low
Points Scored	70 vs. Pacific	13 vs. Oklahoma
First Downs	32 vs. Pacific	16 vs. Kansas State
Rushing Attempts	68 vs. Oklahoma State (375 yards)	49 vs. Kansas (336 yards)
Rushing Yards	524 vs. Texas Tech (63 attempts)	136 vs. Oklahoma (50 attempts)
Passes Attempted	23 vs. Oklahoma (13 completed)	11 vs. Kansas St. (4 completed)
Passes Completed	15 vs. Wyoming (22 attempted)	4 vs. Kansas St. (11 attempted)
Had Intercepted	2 vs. West Virginia	0 [six games]
Passing Yards	267 vs. Kansas	52 vs. Kansas St.
Total Plays	88 vs. Oklahoma St. (475 yards)	61 vs. Kansas St. (262 yards)
Total Yards	699 vs. Pacific (81 attempts)	262 vs. Kansas St. (61 attempts)
Possession Time	38:24 vs. Colorado	28:44 vs. Kansas
Fumbles	4 vs. West Virginia, Oklahoma St.	0 vs. Texas Tech
Fumbles Lost	3 vs. West Virginia, Oklahoma St.	0 vs. Texas Tech, CU, OU
Turnovers	5 vs. West Virginia	1 [six games]
Turnover Margin	+2 vs. Wyoming	-3 vs. West Virginia
Penalties	9 [three games]	4 vs. Kansas, Oklahoma
Yards Penalized	91 vs. Wyoming (nine penalties)	26 vs. Kansas (four penalties)
Sacks By	8 vs. West Virginia	1 vs. Pacific, Wyoming

Opponent	High	Low
Points Scored	32 Wyoming	0 West Virginia
First Downs	24 UCLA	7 Oklahoma State
Rushing Attempts	45 Kansas (141 yards)	21 Wyoming (36 yards)
Rushing Yards	155 Colorado (37 attempts)	7 Kansas State (23 attempts)
Passes Attempted	51 Pacific (27 completions)	13 Iowa State (8 completions)
Passes Completed	27 Pacific (51 attempts)	6 W.Virginia (19 att.), OSU (20)
Had Intercepted	3 Wyoming	0 Colorado, Iowa State
Passing Yards	344 Wyoming	71 Oklahoma
Total Plays	76 Pacific (374 yards)	50 Oklahoma (179 yards)
Total Yards	414 UCLA (70 plays)	89 West Virginia (57 yards)
Possession Time	31:16 Kansas	21:36 Colorado
Fumbles	4 West Virginia	0 UCLA, Colorado, Oklahoma
Fumbles Lost	1 [four games]	0 [eight games]
Turnovers	4 Wyoming	0 Colorado, Iowa State
Turnover Margin	+2 West Virginia, Iowa State	-2 Wyoming
Penalties	12 Kansas State (102 yards)	2 Kansas (11 yards)
Yards Penalized	102 Kansas State (12 penalties)	11 Kansas (2 penalties)
Sacks By	2 Kansas, Oklahoma	0 [eight games]

1994 STARTING LINEUPS

OFFENSE

OPPONENT	SE	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	TE	QB	FB	IB	WB
vs W. Virginia	Johnson	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Frazier	*Gilman	Phillips	Muhammad
@ Texas Tech	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Frazier	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
UCLA	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	**Holbein	Frazier	Schlesinger	Phillips	**Johnson
Pacific	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	**Holbein	Frazier	Schlesinger	Phillips	**Muhammad
Wyoming	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
Oklahoma St.	Holbein	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	*Gilman	Phillips	Muhammad
@ Kansas St.	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Turman	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
@ Missouri	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
Colorado	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
Kansas	Holbein	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	*Alford	Phillips	Muhammad
@ Iowa St.	Holbein	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Shaw	Berringer	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
@ Oklahoma	Baul	Zatechka	Wilks	Graham	Stai	Wiegert	Gilman	Berringer	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad
vs Miami	Baul	Zatechka	Stai	Graham	Wilks	Wiegert	Shaw	Frazier	Schlesinger	Phillips	Muhammad

*Huskers opened in double tight end set

**opened in spread formation

DEFENSE

OPPONENT	LOLB	DT	DT	ROLB	SAM	MIKE	WILL	LC	RC	ROVER	FS
vs W. Virginia	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Dennis	Moss	Minter
@ Texas Tech	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Minter
UCLA	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
Pacific	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
Wyoming	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
Oklahoma St.	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Brown	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
@ Kansas St.	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
@ Missouri	Harris	Peter	Pesterfield	Jones	Dumas	Colman	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
Colorado	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Ellis	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
Kansas	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Ellis	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
@ Iowa St.	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Ellis	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
@ Oklahoma	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Ellis	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland
vs Miami	Harris	Peter	Connealy	Jones	Dumas	Ellis	Stewart	Miles	Williams	Moss	Veland

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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

	G/GS	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	APR	APG	TD	Long Play
Phillips, L.	12/12	286	1,785	63	1,722	6.0	143.5	16	74 (Pacific)
Schlesinger, C.	12/9	63	459	3	456	7.2	38.0	4	41 (Texas Tech)
Childs, C.	12/0	62	399	4	395	6.4	32.9	5	30 (Texas Tech)
Benning, D.	12/0	67	376	9	367	5.5	30.6	5	23 (Pacific)
Makovicka, J.	12/0	47	321	0	321	6.8	26.8	2	50 (Pacific)
Berringer, B.	12/7	71	409	130	279	3.9	23.3	6	28 (Iowa St.)
Frazier, T.	4/4	33	276	28	248	7.5	62.0	6	58 (Texas Tech)
Schuster, B.	12/0	13	99	1	98	7.5	8.2	0	33 (Texas Tech)
Turman, M.	11/1	19	94	14	80	4.2	7.3	0	24 (Pacific)
Muhammad, A.	12/11	5	39	7	32	6.4	2.7	0	30 (UCLA)
Uhlir, T.	5/0	6	27	0	27	4.5	5.4	0	10 (Pacific)
Davenport, S.	3/0	4	27	2	25	6.3	8.3	0	12 (Pacific)
Alford, E.	11/1	1	17	0	17	17.0	1.6	0	17 (Kansas)
Jackson, V.	3/0	3	12	0	12	4.0	4.0	0	8 (Pacific)
Norris, C.	3/0	2	7	0	7	3.5	2.3	0	5 (West Virginia)
Washington, R.	11/0	1	5	0	5	5.0	0.5	0	5 (Oklahoma St.)
Kucera, A.	1/0	1	4	0	4	4.0	4.0	0	4 (Pacific)
Stanley, C.	2/0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Held, R.	1/0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Nebraska	12	687	4,356	276	4,080	5.9	340.0	74
Opponents	12	401	1,359	408	951	2.4	79.3	41

PASSING

	G/GS	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	APA	APG	TD	Int.	Int. Pct.
Berringer, B.	12/7	151	94	.623	1,295	8.6	107.9	10	5	.030
Frazier, T.	4/4	44	19	.432	273	6.2	68.3	4	2	.050
Turman, M.	11/1	12	6	.500	81	6.8	7.4	1	0	.000
Vedral, J.	12/0	1	1	1.000	5	5.0	0.4	1	0	.000
Kucera, A.	1/0	1	0	.000	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	.000

Nebraska	12	210	120	.571	1,654	7.9	137.8	15	7	.030
Opponents	12	364	172	.473	2,155	5.9	179.6	10	17	.050

RECEIVING

	G/GS	No.	Yards	APC	TD
Muhammad, A.	12/11	23	360	15.7	2
Phillips, L.	12/12	22	172	7.8	0
Baul, R.	12/8	17	300	17.7	3
Gilman, M.	12/3	17	196	11.5	1
Alford, E.	11/1	14	271	19.4	4
Holbein, B.	12/5	9	88	9.8	2
Benning, D.	12/0	5	68	13.6	0
Childs, C.	12/0	5	58	11.6	0
Johnson, C.	12/2	4	93	23.3	2
Lake, J.	5/0	1	24	24.0	1
Carpenter, T.	8/0	1	12	12.0	0
Vedral, J.	12/0	1	7	7.0	0
Makovicka, J.	12/0	1	5	5.0	0

Nebraska	12	120	1654	13.8	15
Opponents	12	172	2155	12.5	10

KICKOFF RETURNS

	G/GS	No.	Yards	APR	LP	TD
Benning, D.	12/0	12	308	25.7	58	0
Childs, C.	12/0	9	190	21.1	34	0
Uhlir, T.	5/0	1	30	30.0	30	0
Williams, J.	10/0	1	17	17.0	17	0
Schlesinger, C.	12/9	1	16	16.0	16	0

Nebraska	12	25	571	22.8	58	0
Opponents	12	38	683	18.0	37	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	G/GS	No.	Yards	ARPI	TD
Miles, B.	12/12	5	35	7.0	0
Veland, T.	12/10	3	35	11.7	0
Williams, T.	11/11	3	34	11.3	0
Moss, K.	12/12	2	0	0.0	0
Dumas, T.	11/11	1	54	54.0	0
Dennis, L.	12/1	1	48	48.0	0
Collins, S.	1/0	1	8	8.0	0
Brown, C.	11/1	1	4	4.0	0

Nebraska	12	17	218	12.8	0
Opponents	12	7	34	4.9	0

PUNT RETURNS

	G/GS	No.	Yards	APR	LP	TD
Moss, K.	12/12	31	234	7.6	28	0
Baul, R.	12/8	11	119	10.8	22	0
Williams, T.	11/11	4	42	10.5	18	0
Miles, B.	12/12	1	21	21.0	21	0
Childs, C.	12/0	1	3	3.0	3	0
Wrice, T.	4/0	1	0	0.0	0	0

Nebraska	12	49	419	8.6	28	0
Opponents	12	24	69	2.9	10	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	G/GS	UT	TACKLES			FUMBLES		BK	PBU	INT.	QB HURRY	INT. CSD.
			AT	TT	SACKS*	LOSS	CSD.					
Stewart, E.	12/12	41	55	96	3.5-18	5.5-23	0	1	0	0	18	0
Peter, C.	12/12	32	39	71	7-31	14-45	0	0	0	1	20	0
Dumas, T.	11/11	38	31	69	1-6	4-17	1	0	0	2	7	0
Moss, K.	12/12	41	25	66	2-12	3-13	0	0	0	4	2	0
Ellis, P.	12/4	24	34	58	0.5-2	7.5-21	0	0	0	0	2	0
Jones, D.	12/12	23	29	52	5-31	10-52	1	0	0	2	0	22
Colman, D.	12/8	17	34	51	2-15	3-16	1	1	0	1	0	4
Harris, D.	12/12	15	28	43	5-38	10-48	1	0	0	4	0	19
Conneally, T.	11/11	13	29	42	6.5-37	7.5-38	1	0	0	0	0	13
Miles, B.	12/12	24	16	40	0	0	1	0	4	13	5	0
Williams, T.	11/11	31	7	38	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0
Stokes, E.	12/0	12	24	36	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Wistrom, G.	12/0	14	22	36	4.5-49	6.5-55	0	0	0	0	0	11
Veland, T.	12/10	13	13	26	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Tomich, J.	12/0	12	11	23	1-7	4-15	0	0	0	0	0	12
Terwilliger, R.	12/0	8	11	19	2-8	3-14	0	0	0	0	0	2
Brown, C.	11/1	8	10	18	0	1-1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Dennis, L..	12/1	9	7	16	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Pesterfield, J.	12/1	9	6	15	3-26	5-33	0	0	0	1	0	9
McFarlin, O.	8/0	6	9	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Vedral, J.	12/0	6	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hesse, J.	12/0	5	6	11	0	2-2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Schmadeke, D.	7/0	8	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Penland, A.	10/0	2	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hardin, L.	6/0	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Alexander, L.	7/0	2	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saltsman, S.	8/0	2	6	8	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Peter, J.	7/0	2	6	8	0	1-3	0	0	0	2	0	0
Minter, M.	2/2	3	4	7	0	1-1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Townsend, L.	10/0	2	4	6	0	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Williams, J.	10/0	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noster, S.	5/0	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrice, T.	4/0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Arnold, L.	10/0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benning, D.	12/0	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Erstad, D.	12/12	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Higman, J.	12/0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Aden, M.	4/0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Booker, M.	7/0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Makovicka, J.	12/0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Childs, C.	12/0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ogard, J.	3/0	1	2	3	0	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collins, S.	1/0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jenkins, J.	3/0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sakolosky, J.	3/0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morrow, E.	2/0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retzlaff, T.	1/0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pruitt, B.	12/0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Popplewell, B.	6/0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sieler, T.	11/11	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Muhammad, A.	12/11	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blahak, C.	2/0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Schlesinger, C.	12/9	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winder, S.	1/0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gard, S.	1/0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schuster, B.	12/0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Sacks included in Tackles for Losses

THE FORGOTTEN FEW

Players with no statistics (games played/start)

Dave Alderman 3/0, Eric Anderson 12/0, Darnell Anderson 1/0, Brady Caskey 12/0, Monte Christo 1/0, Aaron Davis 2/0, Chris Dishman 12/0, Jason Fisher 1/0, Aaron Graham 12/12, Michael Hoffman 1/0, Joe Horst 2/0, Matt Hoskinson 1/0, Bill Humphrey 11/0, Matt Hunting 1/0, Jesse Kosch 1/0, Mike Lester 1/0, John Livingston 5/0, Kory Mikos 5/0, Bryce Miller 1/0, Chris Norris 3/0, Brian Nunn 3/0, Steve Ott 7/0, Fred Pollack 4/0, Mike Roberts 1/0, Matt Shaw 12/9, Brenden Stai 12/12, Justin Stephens 2/0, Aaron Taylor 12/0, Adam Treu 5/0, Mike van Cleave 2/0, Steve Volin 4/0, Matt Vrzal 5/0, Zach Wiegert 12/12, Sean Wieting 4/0, Joel Wilks 12/12, Jon Zatechka 4/0, Rob Zatechka 12/12

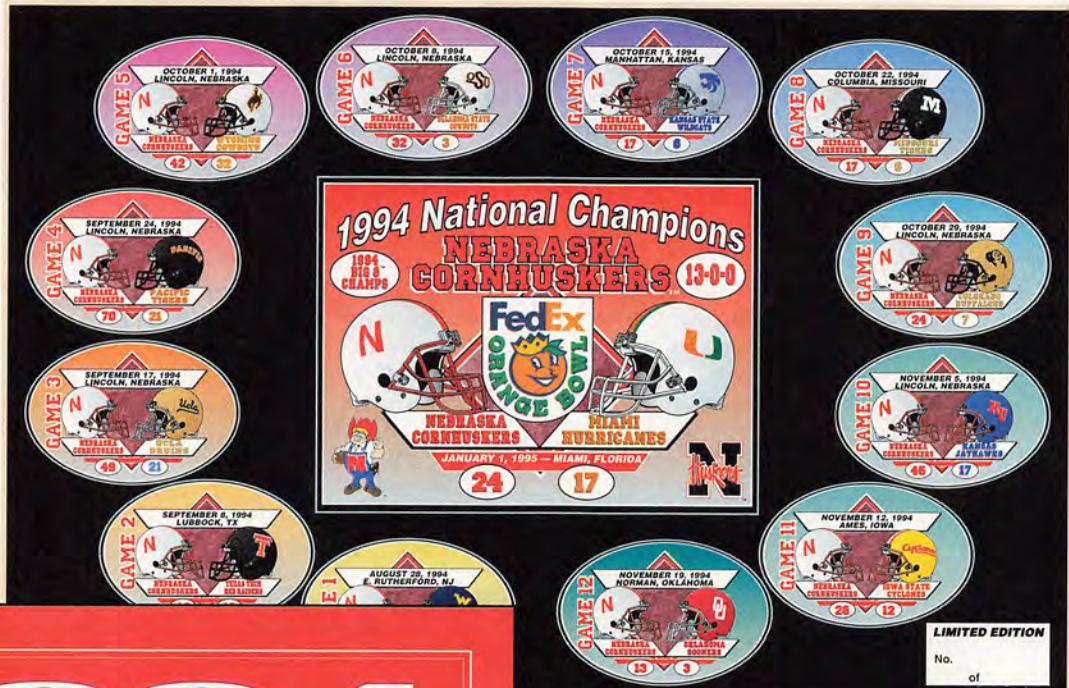
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**In the cut-throat world of recruiting,
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The OSBORNE FACTOR

At 9 a.m. on the Tuesday following Nebraska's 24-17 Orange Bowl victory against Miami, Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne accepted the Sears National Championship trophy, given to the No. 1 college football team as determined by the CNN/USA Today rankings.

At 11:30 a.m. that day, Osborne was on the road, recruiting.

"That's vintage Tom," Steve Pederson said recently. Pederson is Nebraska's associate athletic director for football operations.

"He probably felt guilty between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. that he wasn't out already," Pederson said.

Osborne is the Cornhuskers' No. 1 recruiting advantage, according to Pederson, who returned to Nebraska from Tennessee in April. He served as the Cornhusker recruiting coordinator from 1982 to 1986. He was the recruiting coordinator at Ohio State before accepting the job at Tennessee.

"There are two factors that probably weigh in kids' decisions to come here," Pederson said. "They want to win; they come here to win national championships. And they want the opportunity to play for Tom."

"The legendary coaches are getting fewer and farther between these days. Tom is a good advertisement for the program," said Pederson.

Osborne approaches

recruiting with a determination characteristic of his coaching, which is why he is the winningest active NCAA Division I-A coach by percentage among those with 10 or more seasons of experience.

Successful coaches surround themselves with outstanding athletes. And at the collegiate level, that requires a sharp eye for evaluation and persuasive powers to recruit.

Osborne has both, as 219 coaching victories, 11 Big Eight titles and now a national championship over 22 seasons attests. He's an "aggressive" recruiter, Pederson said.

"But he's not a back-slapping bigshot. He probably recruits like he coaches, honest and direct. What you see is what you get."

Pederson says "probably" because under NCAA rules covering recruiting, he cannot go on the road to observe Osborne first-hand. He cannot evaluate film. He cannot talk with prospective recruits or their coaches by telephone. And he cannot communicate with them by writing letters.

Pederson's contact is limited to on-campus visits by recruits.

His arrival, and experience at Nebraska, has enabled the Cornhusker recruiting machine to function without interruption, following the departure of Dave Gillespie, who left to become an on-the-field coach at Kansas.

It has functioned so well, in fact, that Nebraska reportedly had oral commitments from two dozen recruits before the team left Dec. 23 to



Orange Bowl MVP
Tommie Frazier appeared
headed to Clemson or
Notre Dame following his
senior year in high school
(in photo at right) before
Tom Osborne helped
convince him that he
could win a national title
at Nebraska.



begin preparing for the Orange Bowl.

School representatives are prohibited from commenting on such oral commitments. But the Lincoln and Omaha newspapers have listed 24 recruits, 23 of them high school players, including highly regarded option quarterbacks Frankie London from Lake Charles, La., and Jeff Perino from Durango, Colo.

Recruiting quarterbacks is a priority this season. The Cornhuskers have only two on scholarship: Tommie Frazier and Brook Berringer.

Such oral commitments aren't binding, however. Athletes can change their minds until signing letters of intent in early February.

Without being specific, Pederson said Nebraska had gotten positive feedback from many of the players in whom it had shown interest before leaving for Miami.

The number of early commitments "varies from year to year, and school to school," he said. "I still can't put my finger on why that is."

"Last year at Tennessee, we only had three commitments on Jan. 10. I was scared to death."

But the Volunteers finished strong, and their 1994 recruiting class was perceived to be among the nation's best.

"Tennessee was similar to Nebraska, in that a high number (of recruits) had to come from a distance. At Ohio State, most of the kids came from Ohio. They could get in their cars and drive in (for games) with their families," said Pederson.

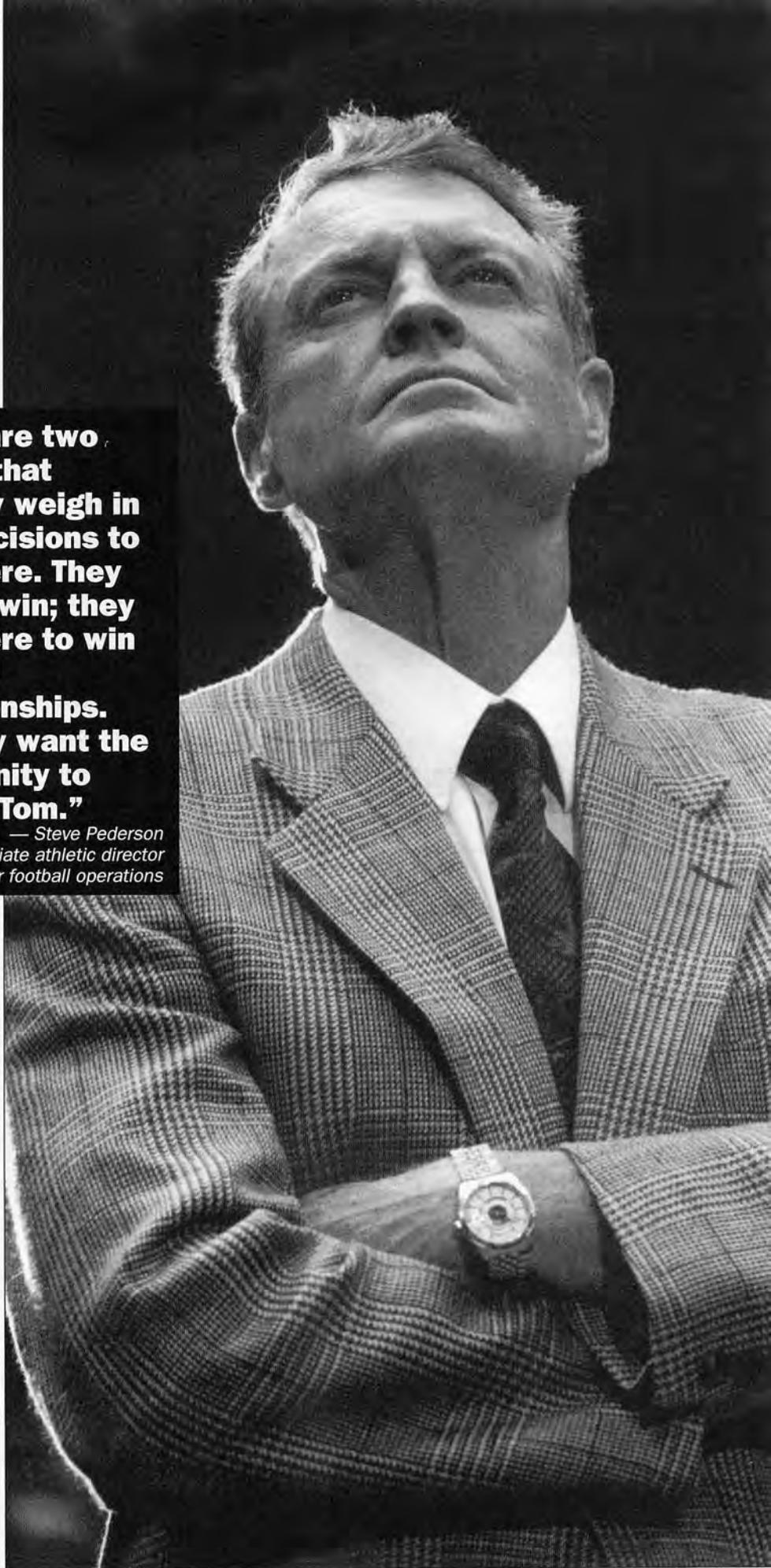
The 24 athletes reported to have made oral commitments to Nebraska came from 12 states besides Nebraska, from California and Connecticut. Six of the reported commitments were from Nebraska high school athletes.

In its attempt at cost containment, the NCAA now allows official campus visits by only 56 recruits, which means "you better pick the right 56 to visit to get your 20 or so recruits," Pederson said.

"If you get just 17, there's no restart, no doing it over. You're done, and you've got problems."

"There are two factors that probably weigh in kids' decisions to come here. They want to win; they come here to win national championships. And they want the opportunity to play for Tom."

— Steve Pederson
associate athletic director
for football operations



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Nebraska has developed a specific evaluation process to reduce the chances of making a mistake.

"If you don't have some formalized evaluation process, you're going to have problems. What you end up with is, the (assistant) coach who talks the loudest in the meetings ends up lobbying for the players he's recruiting," said Pederson.

"If we get the best 20 to 25 players, that's our goal." Assistant coaches have to accept the possibility that some years several players whom they have been assigned to recruit will be bypassed in favor of others.

"Tom has done a great job of keeping it from becoming self-promoting for the coaches," Pederson said.

That philosophy, as well as the evaluation process, was fashioned during Pederson's earlier tenure at Nebraska.

"When I first started in the business, I felt I could do a good job of convincing kids to come to Nebraska, but I couldn't make evaluations," he said. Osborne suggested he spend time with Gil Brandt, who was in charge of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys under Coach Tom Landry at the time.

That experience was invaluable in shaping Pederson's approach.

The final decision on recruits depends on significant input from the assistant coach they are most likely to work with. "The position coach is the only totally unbiased guy because he has to coach the kids once they get here," said Pederson.

"It only makes sense that Frank Solich would know who the best running backs are or that Charlie McBride would know who the best defensive linemen are. And besides, then if a player can't play, I can say: 'You picked him.'"

Pederson has seen some significant changes in the attitude of recruits over the last decade. "Kids are generally more interested in what the school can do for them academically," he said.

"They said they were before, but you actually see it more now. There is also a lot more emphasis on the person heading up the program than there used to be, I think."

And with Osborne as coach, that's a definite advantage for Nebraska, according to Pederson.

Winning a national championship will help in recruiting, too. That should be obvious. "As much as anything, what it does is, it validates what you're telling kids," he said. ■

RECRUITING

Hitting the Ground Running

With an amazing 26 players already pledged, the national champs look ready to challenge for another title in the near future

By JAMES HALE

The Nebraska juggernaut has reached so deep in national recruiting circles that the Cornhuskers are the talk of the country. How many programs have 90 percent of their recruiting class committed before Christmas? There's only one and that's the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

"I really don't know what it is that's so different about this year," Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne said. "We had a great deal of success this year in the month of December and have had several committed to us without visiting our campus yet. I guess that is an indication of how strong our program is doing."

The Huskers are leading the country in recruiting commitments heading into the month of February, with 24. It's a good class already, with several Top 100 national recruits still a possibility.

In-state, the Cornhuskers added the names of **Aaron Wills** (6-3, 225, 4.8) of Omaha (Burke) and fullback **Chad Bell** (6-2, 205, 4.6) of Norfolk to their already impressive list. Wills is a defensive line prospect who managed 94 tackles, 44 unassisted, with 12 tackles for losses, 10 sacks and four fumble recoveries this past season. He's also a local product who always wanted to be a Husker.

"I've grown up watching Nebraska play football all my life," Wills said. "It's always been a dream of mine, and when you consider how good the program is, there really isn't a reason for anybody in the state to go elsewhere."

Wills and Bell join offensive linemen **Brandon Drum** (6-5, 250, 5.1) of Columbus (Scotus), **Lonnie Fulton** (6-5, 250, 4.9) of Grand Island and **Adam Julch** (6-5, 300, 5.1) of Omaha (Burke) as early committals. Outside linebacker **Chad Kelsay** (6-5, 220, 4.6) of Auburn is another.

The Cornhuskers haven't landed everybody from their home state. Prized down lineman **Tim Ridder** (6-8, 285, 5.2) of Omaha (Creighton) disappointed the locals by announcing his intentions to go to Notre Dame, and *USA TODAY* All-

EARLY COMMITMENTS

Players

Players	Ht.	Wt.	40	High School
Andy Bilanzich.....	6-3	210	4.9	Salt Lake City, Utah
Kris Brown.....	5-11	175	4.8	Southlake, Texas
Brandon Drum.....	6-5	250	5.1	Columbus (Scotus)
Lonnie Fulton.....	6-5	250	4.9	Grand Island, Neb.
Marcus Johnson.....	6-6	260	4.9	Vista, Calif.
Adam Julch.....	6-5	300	5.1	Omaha (Burke)
Chad Kelsay.....	6-5	220	4.6	Auburn, Neb.
Carnell Matthews.....	5-11	180	4.4	St. Charles, Mo.
Frankie London.....	6-1	170	4.7	Lake Charles, La.
Chris Rainey.....	6-0	170	4.4	Minneapolis (North)
Jeff Perino.....	6-2	200	4.7	Durango, Colo.
Jerome Peterson.....	5-9	175	4.4	Port Allen, La.
Luiz Almanzar.....	6-4	220	4.6	Dickerson, N.J.
Aaron Wills.....	6-3	225	4.8	Omaha (Burke)
Jeff Claussen.....	6-8	275	5.2	Dickson, Ill.
Matt Baldwin.....	6-3	263	4.7	Bear Creek, Colo.
James Sherman.....	6-4	285	5.0	Whittier, Calif.
Chad Bell.....	6-2	205	4.6	Norfolk, Neb.
T.J. Debates.....	6-3	235	4.8	Stewartville, Minn.
Terrell Farley.....	6-2	220	4.5	Independence J.C.
Julius Jackson.....	6-2	210	4.5	Gainesville, Texas
Tony Ortiz.....	6-3	210	4.3	Waterbury, Ct.
Kareem Sears.....	6-3	230	4.5	Enid, Okla.
Derek Allen.....	6-7	280	4.9	Conway, Ark.

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFIERS

Players

Players	Ht.	Wt.	40	High School
Eric Warfield.....	6-1	190	4.5	Texarkana, Ark.
Shevin Wiggins.....	5-11	170	4.4	Manatee, Fla.

America running back **Ahman Green** (6-0, 205, 2.36) of Omaha (Central) may be leaning toward Notre Dame with a visit to Nebraska coming in January. Arizona and Michigan are the Huskers' other challengers.

Nationally, the Cornhuskers picked up verbals from two other offensive linemen, **Jeff Claussen** (6-8, 275, 5.2) of Dickson, Ill., and **James Sherman** (6-4, 285, 5.0) of Whittier, Calif. Sherman is considered one of the Top 10 offensive linemen in California, and Claussen is highly regarded throughout Illinois.

Nebraska also worked toward taking care of its lack of quarterback

depth by getting two commitments in the early going. **Frankie London** (6-1, 170, 4.7) of Lake Charles (LaGrange), La., is a run/pass quarterback who hit on 53 of 109 passes for 971 yards and eight scores while rushing for 510 yards and three touchdowns. London led LaGrange to its first state semifinal berth since 1969 and picked the Huskers over LSU and Notre Dame.

Jeff Perino (6-2, 200, 4.7) of Durango, Colo., is a little bit of a mystery on the national scene because he only played in four games due to a dislocated kneecap. However, in those four games Perino hit on 58 of 100 passes for 825

yards, rushed for 325 yards (8.8 yards per carry) and had seven touchdowns. As a junior, Perino threw for 1,469 yards on 80-of-150 passing, with 15 touchdowns and four interceptions. Throw in 487 yards rushing at 8.4 yards per carry and seven scores and the Huskers have signed one productive quarterback.

"Nebraska runs a little more than my offense did in high school but when Berringer is their quarterback, they threw the ball more and threw it well," Perino said. "I am certainly not a dropback quarterback, and I will fit into their offense well because I love running the option, too."

Perino and London will have great prospects to throw to in **Jerome Peterson** (5-9, 175, 4.4) of Port Allen, La., and **Luiz Almanzar** (6-4, 220, 4.6) of Jersey City (Dickerson), N.J. Peterson was recruited by the Huskers as an athlete/wingback type after rushing for 2,122 yards and 29 touchdowns this past season. For his career, Peterson rushed for 3,800 yards and 52 touchdowns, plus returned a kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown and a punt 65 yards for a score.

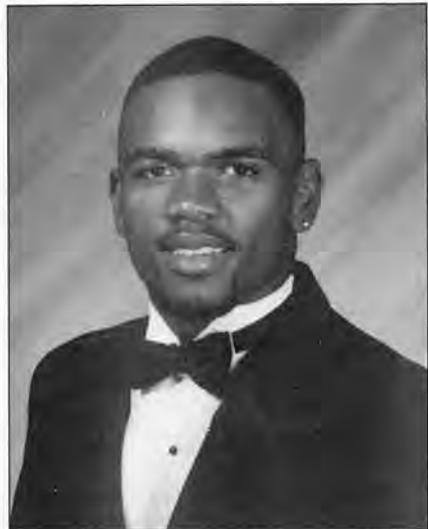
"I was looking to go somewhere it felt like home, and I really developed a good relationship with Coach (Turner) Gill," Peterson said. "I wanted to go out of state, but really didn't want to go to someplace that was really too far away from home. I think Nebraska is really the perfect choice because of the location, they are a great team and are consistently winning."

Almanzar caught 27 passes this

past season for 737 yards and five scores. He's not bad as a defensive end either, with 94 tackles, eight sacks, 20 hurries and seven batted passes. Almanzar, who is being recruited more as a tight end, liked the coziness of Lincoln.

"I liked the people around the campus," Almanzar said. "They seemed very nice. Lincoln is not very big, which is great because you can get to know a lot of people and I won't have the distractions that I might have in a big city."

On defense, the Huskers went all over the country and loaded up on linebackers. There may not be a better athlete in the country than **Tony Ortiz** (6-3, 210, 4.3) of Waterberry, Conn. His 40-meter time seems incredible, but then to find out that he owns the state record in the 100



Wingback prospect Jerome Peterson gained over 2,000 yards his senior season.

CLASS OF CHAMPIONS

As the recruiting season heats up, outstanding high school athletes begin to narrow their list of potential suitors to a select few schools. At this date, here are some of the standout players that have expressed an interest in making Lincoln their home for the next several years.

QUARTERBACKS

1) Kevin Williams	6-1	182	4.6.....	NEB, OU, ARK
2) LaJune Burks	6-2	190	4.6.....	NEB, TX A&M, ND
3) Quincy Woods	6-2	185	4.5.....	MICH, ND, NEB, FSU

RUNNING BACKS

1) Ahman Green	6-0	205	4.3	NEB, ND, AZ, MICH
2) Benny Butler	6-1	192	4.5 ..OU, TX, NEB, OSU, COLO	
3) Dexter Ford	6-0	195	4.5.....	NEB, ARK, TX, ALA

WIDE RECEIVERS

1) Daylon McCutcheon	5-10	175	4.4	NEB, COLO, USC, MICH
2) Ryan Roques	5-11	160	4.4	UCLA, USC, NEB, STAN
3) Darrell Dent	6-1	175	4.4	NEB, USC, COLO

TIGHT ENDS

1) Martin Simmons	6-4	255	4.8	OU, TX, FSU, NEB, ND
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OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

1) Tim Ridder	6-8	285	5.2 ...	Committed to Notre Dame
2) Tim Mittlestadt	6-6	245	4.7	ND, NEB, MO, MICH

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

1) Clyde Sanders	6-3	285	4.8	COLO, TX, NEB, ND
2) Chris Reed	6-4	250	4.7	MIA, NEB, PIT, TX, OU
3) Kelvin Garmon	6-4	315	4.9	TX A&M, NEB, FLA, TX

LINEBACKERS

1) Marcus Jefferson	5-10	227	4.4	NEB, USC, TX, OU
2) Kory Minor	6-2	245	4.6	NEB, ND, UCLA

DEFENSIVE BACKS

1) Reggie Davis	6-1	171	4.4	FL, NEB, ND, FSU
2) Cephus Scott	6-2	195	4.5	NEB, BAY, TX A&M, OU



One of the top players out of Colorado, lineman Matt Baldwin has committed to Nebraska.

meters at 10.5, which is the 10th best time in the country this year. As a tailback, Ortiz rushed for 1,728 yards and 30 touchdowns this past season and has returned four kickoffs and four punts for scores in his career.

On defense, Ortiz made 104 tackles, eight sacks, two interceptions and four fumble recoveries. He will play defense for the Cornhuskers, and it was his recruiting visit to Lincoln that gave the nod to the Huskers.

"Putting aside the great academic program they have at Nebraska, I would say the closeness I felt on my recruiting weekend is what sold me the most," Ortiz said. "I hung around with Luis Almanzar, Kareem Sears and Frankie London and we all talked about what it would be like to commit to Nebraska and play as a group. I know that is going to be something special."

Sears (6-3, 230, 4.5) of Enid, Okla., is another player regarded as one of the Top 10 outside linebackers in the country. Terrell Farley (6-2, 220, 4.5) of Independence (Kan.) Junior College and Julius Jackson (6-2, 210, 4.5) of Gainesville, Texas, are also outside backer prospects headed to Lincoln.

T.J. DeBates (6-3, 235, 4.8) of Stewartville, Minn., will come in as an inside linebacker prospect after playing for his father, Earl, as a tight end, halfback, inside backer and rush end in high school. DeBates ran for 720 yards and made 119 tackles in nine games.

"Nebraska's coaches really didn't have to say much," DeBates said. "Nebraska's program stands on its own, and when the coaches offered a scholarship, I really didn't take long to accept."

Matt Baldwin (6-3, 263, 4.7) of Bear Creek, Colo., is among the Top 10 players in Colorado and commits after a season in which he had 90 tackles and nine sacks.

Throw in Prop 42 athletes Shevin Wiggins and Eric Warfield, who are wingback/athlete types, and the Huskers are well on their way to one



An outstanding high school athlete, T. J. DeBates will become a Husker inside backer.

of the top recruiting classes in the country entering February.

If Green comes aboard, or a Dayton McCutcheon out of California gives the Huskers a commitment, Nebraska may add a recruiting national championship to its mantel. ■

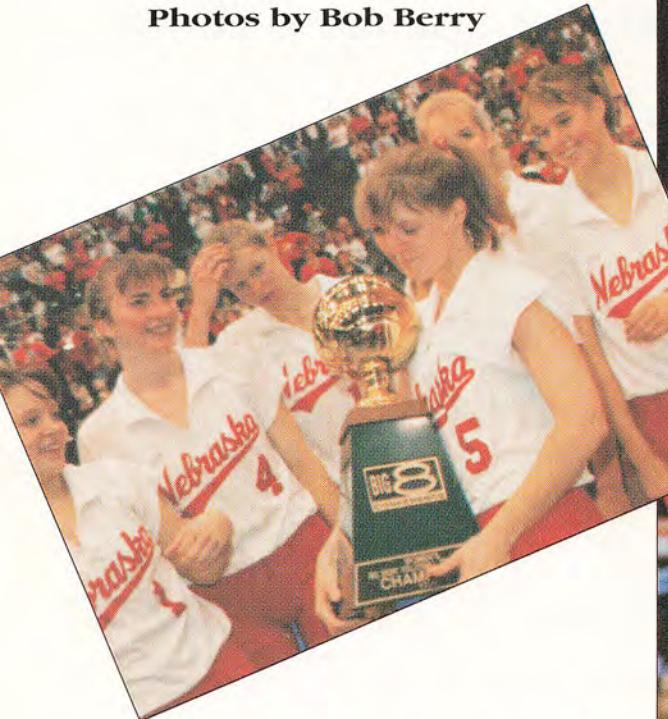
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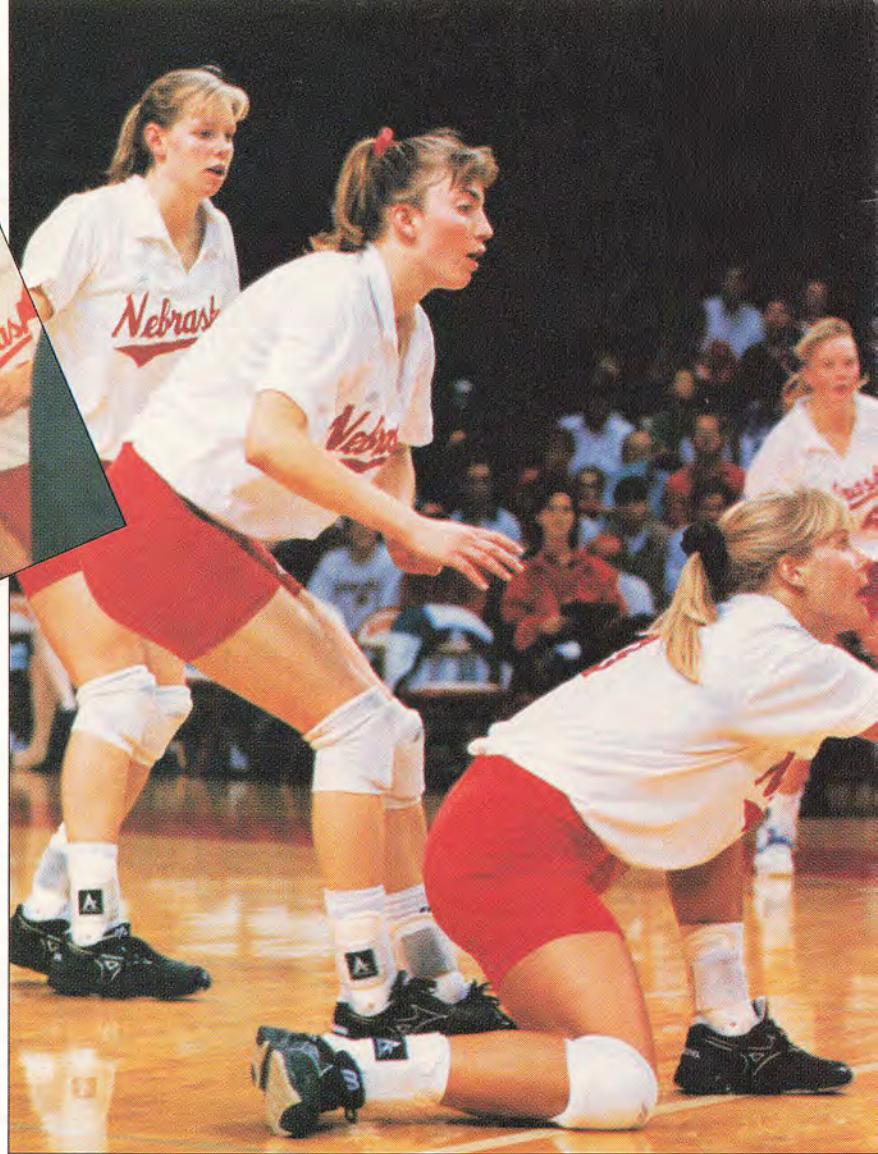
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Photos by Bob Berry



While Nebraska had its miraculous volleyball season come to a premature end in the NCAAs, few will be able to forget a year in which the team set a school record with a 31-match win streak



A Year To Remember

Yes, people will remember the school-record 31-match win streak.

And the Big Eight Conference regular-season championship.

And the Big Eight Tournament title.

And the two NCAA Tournament victories.

And the sellout crowds at the NU Coliseum.

And the storybook senior seasons of Peggy Meyer and Kelly Aspegren.

But the 1994 Nebraska volleyball team's goal from the start was to qualify for the NCAA Final Four, where the Huskers would shoot for the school's first national volleyball title. Those hopes were ended rather abruptly Dec. 10 in Lincoln, where a sold-out NU Coliseum crowd of 4,248 watched Penn State dismantle

the Huskers, 12-15, 15-11, 15-9, 15-8, in the NCAA Mideast Regional championship match.

That Penn State — and not Nebraska — qualified for the Final Four was not a shock. The Nittany Lions had five starters who played on the team that finished second in the 1993 national tournament, and they were ranked fifth in both national polls entering this season's match.

But in the context of Nebraska's remarkable season — a season during which the program sparked unprecedented interest and notoriety because of the 31-match win streak and No. 1 ranking — the loss to Penn State was surprising to many. The Nittany Lions crashed a Husker party that many thought

could end in the national finals, perhaps with a victory.

Nebraska took over the No. 1 spot in the national polls in early November and held it to the end of the regular season. The Huskers, who already had taken back the Big Eight regular-season crown from Colorado, beat the Buffaloes in four games Nov. 26 in the finals of the league tournament in Omaha.

The Buffs had won the conference tournament the previous two seasons.

Nebraska received a first-round bye in the NCAA Tournament and then kept its roll going by beating unranked George Washington in three games in the NCAA Tournament's second round, moving to 30-0. The Huskers faced the



Many factors allowed the Huskers to make the impressive undefeated march to the Big Eight title and NCAA tournament (clockwise from top to bottom) including top-notch coaching from Val Novak, Cathy Noth and head coach Terry Pettit, an All-American effort on the part of Allison Weston (18) and the senior leadership of Kelly Aspegren (3) and Peggy Meyer (22).

Buffaloes for the fourth time in 1994 in the NCAA Mideast Regional semifinals and easily disposed of them — again.

Nebraska entered the regional final against Penn State with a 31-0 record, a No. 1 ranking and a sold-out NU Coliseum on its side. But the Huskers had not faced a team as formidable as the Nittany Lions all season. In fact, the Huskers had played no teams in the top 10 of the final ratings before the NCAAs.

"Our schedule didn't really allow us to get that much experience playing with real strong teams that side out, and it was kind of a challenge for us," said Husker middle blocker Allison Weston. "But I don't think it took anything out of us. We had a lot of confidence in each other."

Penn State, which lost to UCLA in the NCAA Final Four's semifinals, repeatedly dug Nebraska attacks that had gone for kills so often during the regular season. The Nittany Lions attacked from several angles, getting 10 or more kills from all six

starters, including first-team All-America setter Salima Davidson, who had 10 kills while simultaneously directing a solid offensive attack.

In the fourth game, it was clear Nebraska was not even the No. 1 team in the gym on that night.

"I think the better team won," said Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit, who was honored as the American Volleyball Coaches Association's 1994 Coach of the Year. "Penn State was better than we were. They hit .310, and there's no way we were going to beat them if they hit .310. And I think their defense was more organized than ours."

The Huskers hit only .224 — the volleyball percentage is comparable to a baseball batting average — and were outblocked, 19-5.

Nebraska was left to ponder why, for the fourth straight season, it failed to reach the Final Four. The Huskers last qualified in 1990,

Setter Christy Johnson (5) will be the nucleus of a team that returns plenty of power, including (25) Jen McFadden, who spent most of 1994 sidelined with a knee injury.

defeating Penn State, 3-1, in the Mideast Regional final before losing in the Final Four's semifinals to Pacific at College Park, Md.

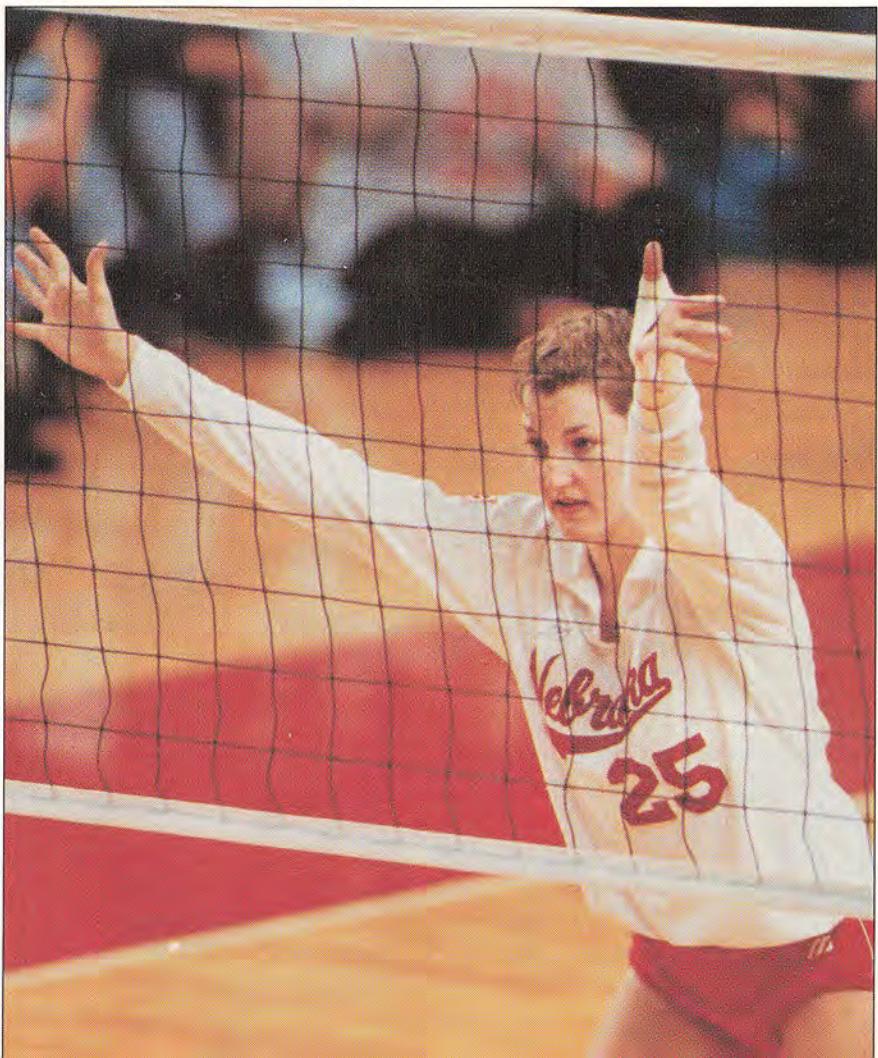
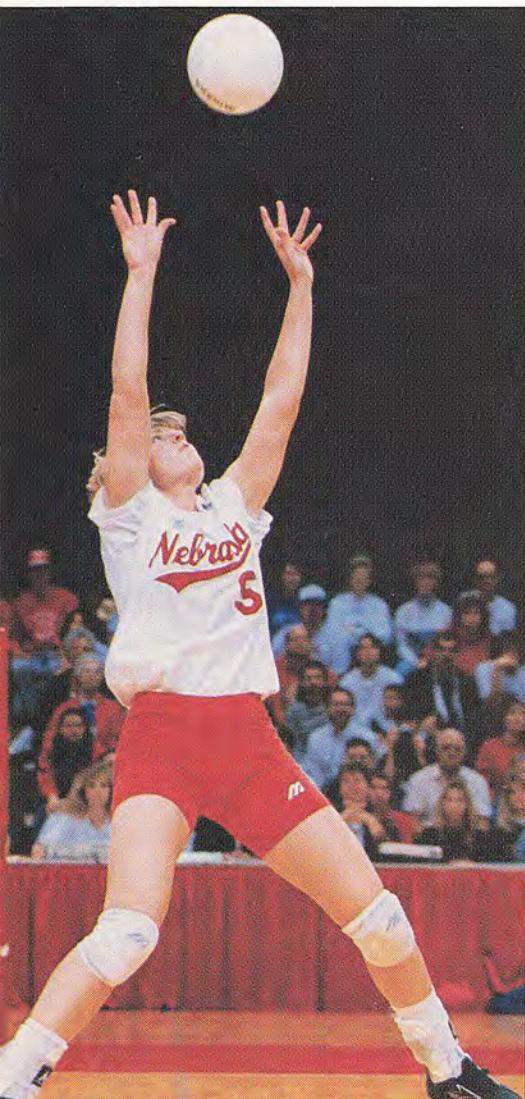
This year's Nebraska team was not as physically overpowering as many of Pettit's past teams. But the Huskers were adroit ballhandlers, played solid defense, had a reliable go-to player in Weston and, perhaps most importantly, had a chemistry about them that Pettit noted throughout the season.

The Huskers lose only two seniors — Aspegren and Meyer. Both contributed mightily in 1994, each enjoying career-best seasons.

"I'm particularly happy for Peggy and Kelly because they both had great senior years," Pettit said. "They both worked very hard, and I think their effort in a season like this changes who they are."

"You look back on an experience like this, where you have certain challenges, and they both did everything they possibly could do to meet them."

Aspegren, a 5-11 outside hitter, attended tiny Callaway, Neb., High School and joined Nebraska as a walk-on in 1991. She played sparing-



ly her first two years at NU before becoming a starter last season. But this season, she hit about 150 points higher than her previous career average and became an All-Big Eight, All-Mideast Region and second-team All-America selection by the AVCA.

Meyer, a 6-1 middle blocker from Moorhead, Minn., had a mostly uneventful career until this season, when she took over as a full-time starter after sophomore Jen McFadden tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee Oct. 25 in an NU win at Illinois. McFadden's injury was a blow that might have dropped NU's level a notch had Meyer not stepped in and stepped up her play.

She played particularly well during the postseason and ended her career with a 17-kill performance against Penn State.

"Peggy was a great player from the moment she stepped on the court," Pettit said. "But I think when Jen went down, Peggy really met some challenges head-on that she hadn't met before. I really think that's what this is all about — the opportunity to fail and learn and the opportunity to be successful and learn."

Pettit said stories like those of Aspegren and Meyer "show college athletics is worthwhile, because they take that experience into everything they do from here on."

In much the same manner, Nebraska's returning players will use their experiences of 1994 in 1995. The Huskers return ample talent, but whether they can re-generate the zeal and focus they possessed in 1994 remains to be seen.

The Huskers' nucleus will be setter Christy Johnson, a 1994 first-team AVCA All-America as a junior, and Weston, who received AVCA first-team All-America honors for the second straight year. Like Johnson, she will also be a senior in 1995.

Johnson stepped into the starting role after redshirting last season and finished among the top 10 nationally with nearly 14 set assists per game.

Weston was the Big Eight Player of the Year and led the league with an average of 4.99 kills per game, which topped her

Colorado, which had won the Big Eight title the previous two years, fell to the Huskers four times in 1994.

1994-95 VOLLEYBALL RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	SCORES
Sept. 2	Oregon State	W, 3-0	17-15, 15-6, 15-7
Sept. 3	Kentucky	W, 3-0	15-5, 15-6, 15-12
Sept. 3	Purdue	W, 3-0	15-11, 15-5, 15-4
Sept. 9	Bowling Green State	W, 3-0	15-1, 15-0, 15-9
Sept. 10	Wyoming	W, 3-0	15-7, 15-9, 15-6
Sept. 10	Arizona State	W, 3-1	15-12, 15-7, 11-15, 15-9
Sept. 16	Texas Tech	W, 3-0	15-4, 15-4, 15-0
Sept. 17	Maryland	W, 3-0	15-9, 15-10, 15-6
Sept. 17	Louisiana State	W, 3-0	15-0, 15-6, 15-1
Sept. 23	Pittsburgh	W, 3-0	15-5, 15-9, 15-8
Sept. 24	New Mexico	W, 3-1	15-5, 15-6, 10-15, 17-15
Sept. 28	Missouri	W, 3-0	15-1, 15-4, 15-9
Sept. 30	Duke	W, 3-0	15-12, 15-1, 15-8
Oct. 1	Duke	W, 3-0	15-12, 15-7, 15-13
Oct. 8	Oklahoma	W, 3-0	15-9, 15-10, 15-9
Oct. 12	Kansas State	W, 3-1	13-15, 15-2, 15-5, 15-6
Oct. 15	Iowa State	W, 3-1	15-2, 14-16, 15-10, 15-5
Oct. 19	Kansas	W, 3-0	15-6, 15-2, 15-2
Oct. 22	Iowa State	W, 3-1	15-11, 15-3, 9-15, 15-5
Oct. 25	Illinois	W, 3-0	15-9, 15-6, 15-10
Oct. 29	Colorado	W, 3-0	15-3, 15-12, 15-5
Nov. 2	Kansas State	W, 3-0	15-8, 15-11, 15-3
Nov. 5	Texas	W, 3-0	15-8, 15-9, 15-11
Nov. 9	Kansas	W, 3-0	15-13, 15-7, 15-4
Nov. 12	Missouri	W, 3-0	15-2, 15-3, 15-1
Nov. 16	Colorado	W, 3-0	15-13, 15-5, 15-2
Nov. 19	Oklahoma	W, 3-0	15-8, 15-2, 15-5
Nov. 25	Oklahoma	W, 3-0	15-6, 15-4, 15-5
Nov. 26	Colorado	W, 3-1	15-6, 13-15, 15-6, 15-8
Dec. 3	George Washington	W, 3-0	17-15, 15-9, 15-8
Dec. 9	Colorado	W, 3-0	15-11, 15-7, 15-5
Dec. 10	Penn State	L, 1-3	15-12, 11-15, 9-15, 8-15

average of 4.587 from a year ago. She was considered a leading candidate for NCAA player of the year until Nebraska was eliminated in the NCAA Mideast Regional. Laura Davis, a senior setter for Ohio State, was named player of the year by the AVCA after guiding her team to the semifinals of the Final Four, where

the Buckeyes were defeated by eventual champion Stanford.

In addition to Johnson and Weston, the Huskers return starting hitters Billie Winsett and Maria Hedbeck, and McFadden is expected to recover from her knee injury and return to the lineup in her middle blocker spot.

But changes are possible, especially considering Nebraska has a 1994 recruiting class that Bill Feldman, who runs a Chicago-based scouting service, said is probably the best in the nation.

Nebraska has received oral commitments from two of Nebraska's top prep players — 6-0 hitter Jaime Krondak of Lincoln (Neb.) East and 5-11 hitter Renee Saunders of Omaha (Neb.) Marian. The Huskers also got commitments from 5-8 setter/hitter Fiona Nepo of Honolulu and 6-1 middle blocker Lisa Avery of Shawnee Mission, Kan. ■



CELEBRATE

From page 13

back-to-back crowns.

But on this day, Osborne and his players could bask in the glory of beating Miami in Miami and virtually clinching the mythical national title.

At the celebration in the Sports Center, players took turns at the microphone addressing the crowd. They praised Osborne and thanked the fans for their support.

"We didn't just win this for ourselves, we won this for the whole state of Nebraska," said Nebraska senior defensive lineman Terry Connealy. He called Osborne "the best football coach in the country."

Connealy's classmate and fellow team captain, offensive lineman Rob Zatechka, spoke of how Osborne places more emphasis on the pursuit of the national crown than on actually winning it.

"Because of that, he's all the more deserving of winning a national title," said Zatechka, part of what some think was the best offensive line in the history of college football.

Lieutenant Gov. Robak had

issued a proclamation late on the night of Jan. 1, congratulating Osborne and the team and declaring the Huskers the No. 1 team in the United States and 1995 The Year of No. 1 Nebraska. She read the proclamation at the Jan. 2 celebration.

Before the team arrived, a banner had been unfurled that read "Welcome Home Nebraska, No. 1." It was the same banner that was draped after the 1971 Huskers returned to Lincoln after a 38-6 Orange Bowl drubbing of Alabama, which had given the school its second-straight national crown.

"The first thing we ought to do is save that banner for next year, too," Gov. Nelson said.

Lincoln's Victor Sinica, 23, was among those who attended the celebration. He wore a red top hat with white polka dots.

"This just lifts your spirits — for the whole state," Sinica said. "Words can't describe the feeling."

Bill Bazyn, a 39-year-old from Norfolk, Neb., came to the celebration wearing a red wig and corncobs for earrings. His face was painted red, except for the No. 1 painted in white on both cheeks.

"Last night when the game was

over, I stripped down to my red underwear, went outside and made a snow angel," Bazyn said.

Steve Sempeck, a 31-year-old from nearby Elkhorn, Neb., was also among those on the outside hoping to get in. His spirit was intact.

"All these people were hungry for this championship," Sempeck said. "They've waited so damn long. Nobody deserves this more than Tom Osborne. I just wanted to be a part of it."

Those inside danced and clapped to the Cornhusker Marching Band's music. There were shouts of joy. Tears of joy. It was truly a memorable experience.

Husker sophomore I-back Damon Benning appreciated the fans' welcome-home party.

"It's just part of the Nebraska spirit," Benning said. "They've been with us all year. The fans really helped us out. There wasn't a lot of negativity this year like we've seen in the past. It just seemed like everyone believed in us, and we picked up on that."

"It was unbelievable in Miami. It didn't seem like we were away from home. We matched them noise-level for noise-level." ■

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OB ITEMS

From page 21

"He said that he was happy for us," Osborne said. "He said that he was glad that we finally got it done."

Taking The Turf

Offensive guard Joel Wilks and defensive tackle Christian Peter decided to take a little of the Orange Bowl home with them.

"Dig it up and take it home with you!" Wilks screamed at Peter while watching him rip a huge hunk of grass out of the end zone in front of the Nebraska locker room.

"Take that home and plant it in your front yard," Wilks barked. "This is our turf now!"

Peter grabbed the hunk of sandy-grass, plopped it on top of his head, and marched into the locker room amid huge laughter from the fans.

What Goes Around

Nebraska, which was penalized 11 times for 115 yards last year in a heartbreaking loss to Florida State in the Orange Bowl, got a bit of payback this time around.

The Cornhuskers were penalized only three times for 20 yards against the Hurricanes.

Miami was penalized 11 times for 92 yards.

Sweet justice.

Briefly Noted

Clayton Carlin, a first-year graduate assistant coach at Nebraska, was Miami quarterback Frank Costa's coach at St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia. Though his loyalty was

to Nebraska during the game, Carlin tried to console Costa afterward.

Carlin's father is the ticket manager for the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and a friend of former Eagles Coach Dick Vermeil, who left Carlin's resume with Nebraska when he came to Lincoln to serve as an analyst for ABC during its telecast of the Nebraska-Oklahoma game a year ago.

Nebraska and Miami each earned approximately \$4.5 million in payouts from the Orange Bowl.

Miami's All-America safety C.J. Richardson made an oral commitment to accept a scholarship from Nebraska during his senior year in high school in Dallas. But when letter-of-intent signing day arrived, he changed his mind and became a Hurricane.

United States Senator Jim Exon of Nebraska announced in the days after the Orange Bowl victory and announcement of the national championship that he had been advised by White House officials that President Clinton would be inviting the Cornhuskers to meet him in the White House. No date had been set.

Don't Miss Out On Orange Bowl Photo

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the panoramic shot of the Orange Bowl (as seen on page 32-33) should contact Al Messerschmidt. The NFL photographer utilized a camera with a 360-degree lens attachment. The final print actually covers the entire stadium.

The color prints will be approximately 10 x 27 inches. Prices are \$55 unframed and \$150 framed. Credit card orders can be phoned to 1-800-635-2263. Checks can be mailed to: Al Messerschmidt, 407 Lincoln Rd., Suite 2-F, Miami Beach, Fla. 33139. ■



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ORANGE BOWL

From page 30

Osborne said. "The last one was a 'false' block, like pass protection."

Sapp and middle linebacker Ray Lewis were victimized. "We had run that play during the season, but we hadn't practiced it," said Osborne.

Miami Coach Dennis Erickson said there was no secret to Nebraska's fourth-quarter success.

"We were out there too long on defense," he said. "The kids played their hearts out, and we just couldn't make the plays on offense when we had to, which kept the defense out there."

"That's what it boiled down to. We had a million chances in that football game, and it was kind of two different halves. We dominated the first half but couldn't take advantage of the opportunities in the second."

Tom Sieler, who might have been called on to win the game with a field goal, kicked the extra point, and the scoring was complete. All that remained was one final Hurricane series.

After Costa completed a 5-yard pass on first down, he was sacked twice and then intercepted by Kareem Moss.

Miami had no timeouts left. Frazier knelt twice. The game was over. And the celebration began.

"I think we were in better shape," said Stai. "We wanted it more, but Miami played hard. I think we caught them by surprise."

Sapp admitted that Miami wasn't as aggressive defensively in the late stages of the game. "We were swarming to the ball until the end," he said. "And then we didn't make some tackles. You have to make plays to win."

"They made plays in the end, and we didn't."

The next day, following the team's return to Lincoln, Schlesinger described the winning touchdown at a celebration at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. "When I scored, I looked at the grass in the end zone, and it was a lot greener than anywhere else on the field," he said.

It was a national championship green, a green Nebraska had last seen in 1970 and 1971. The 1993 Cornhuskers got a glimpse, and that glimpse was where it began. Mission accomplished.

Nebraska was finally national champion. ■

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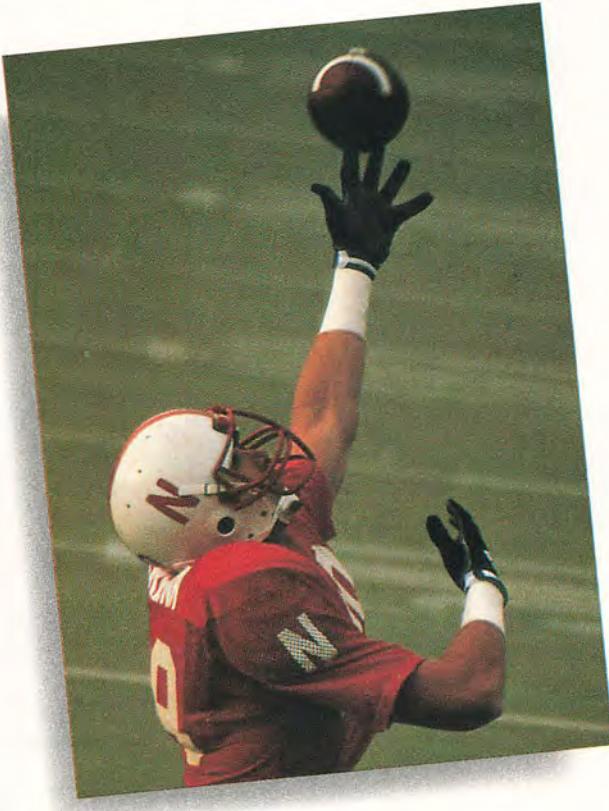
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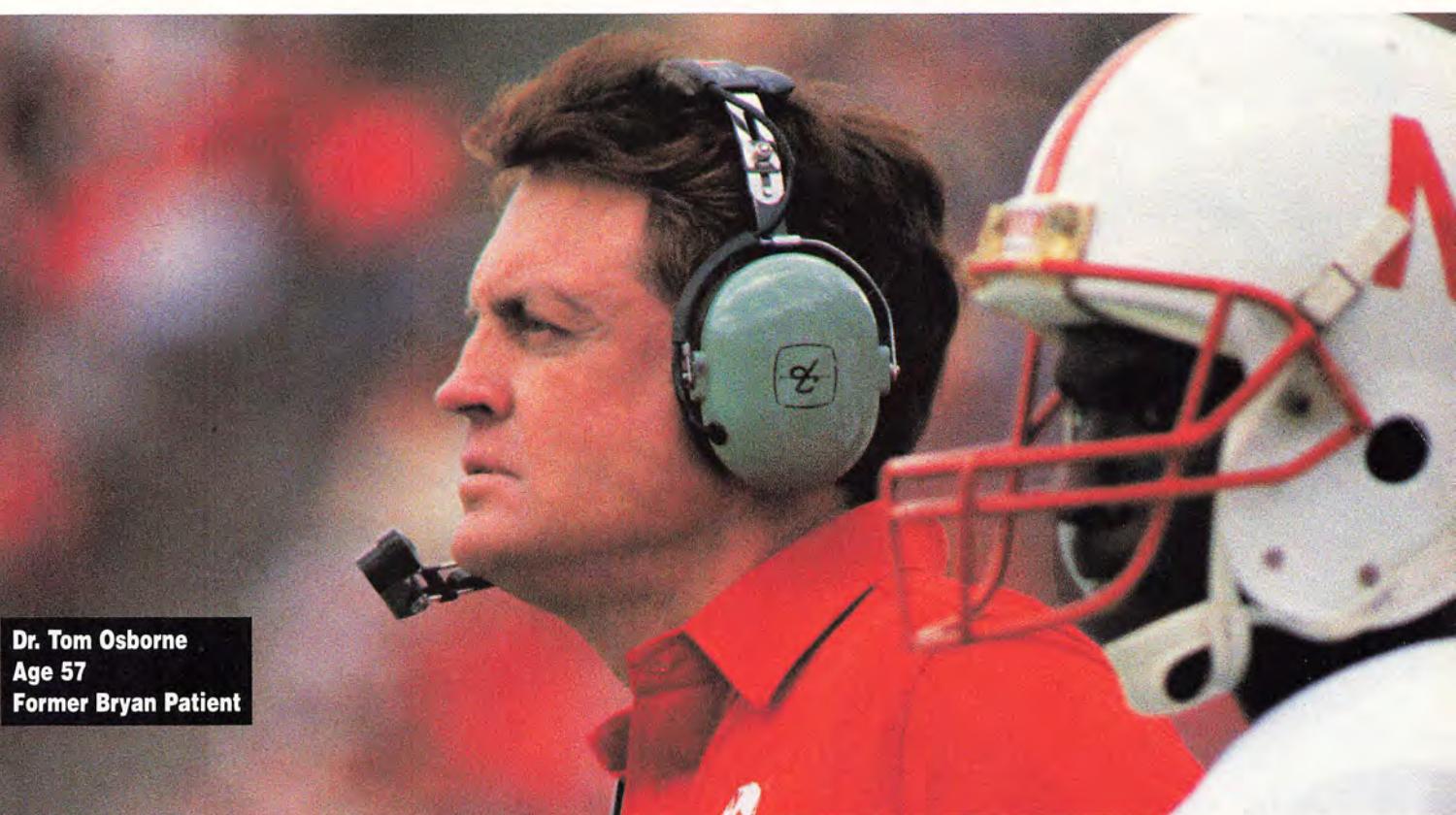


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